



To all media houses

15 November 2023

NORTHERN CAPE MEC FOR COGHSTA APPOINTS FAMILY-RELATED AND NON-COMPLIANT ANC CADRE AS DIRECTOR IN HIS DEPARTMENT.

For immediate release

In another case of cadre deployment and crass nepotism, the Northern Cape MEC for COGHSTA, Mr Bently Vass, has appointed his family relation as a Director in the Springbok Office of the Department. The appointee is also a serving ANC Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) member with the MEC.

The appointment of the controversial Mr Roger Swart as the Namakwa District Director has been met with shock and anger at the blatant abuse of power by the MEC. The other applicants are rightfully dissatisfied with the situation and intend to approach investigative authorities for remedy. The relationship was not disclosed during the interview, and the MEC placed himself in a conflict of interest.

Even worse is that Mr Swart misrepresented his managerial experience, which was required to be six years at the senior management level in local government. The information in his CV was written to mislead the panel. Mr Swart presented his 2011-2016 ordinary councillor term and his 2016 -2021 term as Hantam Municipal Mayor as though he was in the management echelons of a municipality.

He was a politician and did not have the required management experience, which was one of the criteria. The interview panel did not do thorough due diligence, which may indicate a job designed for the family relation and ANC cadre.

It is the same character the Public Protector found to have abused municipal funds to attend the ANC Conference 2017. See Report No. 04 of 2020/2021. The Public Protector ordered that the MEC take appropriate remedial actions. The MEC and the municipality never implemented the remedial actions as directed by the Public Protector, and he is now rewarding his family relations and comrade with a plum job in his department.

Municipalities in the Northern Cape are in a dire situation, and service delivery to residents is at its poorest because of a lack of professionalism, maladministration, and bad governance. The controversy is not isolated but widespread. It is aided and abetted by the MEC, who ought to be the custodian of the laws of the Republic.

COPE demands that the MEC rescind this irregular appointment. We will also report this matter to the Public Protector for an investigation.

Issued by: Pakes Dikgetsi

COPE CNC member.

0823022935