

12 March 2026

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Dear Mr Dukwana

## **CONCERN REGARDING CADRE REDEPLOYMENT AND COLLAPSE OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE IN THE FREE STATE**

June 2024

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**Registration number:** 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

AfriForum expresses its serious concern regarding recent reports that seven mayors in Free State municipalities who were reportedly earmarked for redeployment in August last year are still serving in their positions months later.

This situation raises serious questions about the ANC's commitment to accountability and effective local governance. The ongoing delays – which are attributed to supposed internal political processes – strongly suggest that political considerations are once again taking precedence over service delivery and the interests of residents. For many years, the policy of cadre deployment has undermined local government across South Africa. Instead of appointing capable and qualified people, political loyalty has too often become the primary criterion for leadership positions in municipalities. The result is a critical decline in governance, financial management and infrastructure maintenance.

AfriForum is particularly concerned that a policy of “redeployment” is increasingly used as a political mechanism to avoid real accountability. This policy of moving municipal officials who failed in one municipality to others position in different municipality does not address the root cause of the problem. It merely shifts the consequences of poor governance from one community to another.

Residents of the Free State are already suffering from consequences of failing municipalities: collapsing infrastructure, unreliable service delivery, deteriorating roads and ongoing financial mismanagement. At a time when municipalities urgently require competent leadership, political manoeuvring appears to be taking priority over the urgent needs of communities.

AfriForum therefore calls on the ANC in the Free State to take meaningful action by

1. ensuring that officials who have failed in their duties are held accountable.
2. suspending individuals implicated in corruption, maladministration or serious governance failures.
3. prioritising competence and qualifications in municipal appointments.
4. ending the practice of simply redeploying failing officials to other municipalities.

Communities cannot continue to pay the price for political factionalism and internal power struggles. AfriForum will therefore continue to monitor the situation closely and will pursue all available civic and legal avenues to ensure that municipal governance in the Free State is restored to a level that serves the interests of residents.

Yours sincerely

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