

23 April 2026

Mr S. Mokoena
Member of the Executive Council
Free State Province
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Corner of Markgraaff & St Andrew Street
BLOEMFONTEIN
9300

CC: Ms M.J. Letsoha-Mathae
Premier of the Free State
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Dear Mr Mokoena

LETTER OF DEMAND: GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY CRISIS IN NKETOANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY – URGENT INTERVENTION REQUIRED

AfriForum is a non-profit company with its main purpose the promotion and advocacy of democracy and equality, as well as civil, human, minority and constitutional rights. In this regard, we have a mandate from our members in Reitz and Petrus Steyn to act on their behalf.

I am writing to formally raise serious concerns regarding the ongoing governance and service delivery failures within the Nketoana Local Municipality, as were recently highlighted by a parliamentary oversight committee. The findings point to systemic dysfunction, including

- persistent financial mismanagement and irregular expenditure,
- a reported debt of approximately R1 billion that is owed to Eskom,
- Chronic instability in senior management positions,
- non-functional executive committee and ineffective council operations,
- continued failure to provide residents with reliable access to safe water and
- delayed and inadequate response to findings by the South African Human Rights Commission.

June 2024

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Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.

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

These failures are not administrative oversights; in fact, they represent a direct violation of residents' constitutional rights and a collapse of accountability within the municipality. Of particular concern is the apparent lack of consequence management and leadership accountability, which allows this situation to deteriorate further.

The reported conduct and expenditure patterns associated with the current mayor, Ms. Mamiki Mokoena, further erode public trust and confidence in the Municipality's leadership.

In light of the above, we respectfully but firmly call on the Provincial Government, under the authority of Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), to

1. initiate urgent and decisive intervention in terms of section 139 of the Constitution.
2. implement strict consequence management against implicated officials.
3. stabilise administrative and financial leadership within the municipality.
4. ensure the immediate restoration of basic service delivery, particularly reliable water provision.
5. proceed with the immediate removal of the current mayor to restore accountability and public confidence.

The residents of Nketoana can no longer endure continued neglect and institutional failure. Swift and firm action is required to prevent further decline and to uphold the dignity and rights of the affected communities.

We trust that your office will treat this matter with the urgency and seriousness that it deserves. We remain available to support any efforts that are aimed at restoring proper governance and service delivery in the municipality.

Yours sincerely

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