

From: David Lewis
Sent: 12 March 2012 05:16 PM
To: Lindiwe Maseko
Subject: re: alleged corruption

The Honourable Speaker
Ms. Lindiwe Maseko
Gauteng Provincial Legislature

Dear Madam Speaker

Corruption Watch is an independent, civil society backed organisation dedicated to combating corruption.

The purchase by your office of a number of grocery and liquor products has attracted a lot of comment. It has been publicised on our website (www.corruptionwatch.org.za) and on our face book page. On our face book page it has attracted more negative comment than any single other issue that has been discussed there. We would respectfully urge you to peruse these comments. Hardly any of the comments accept the explanation offered by your spokesperson who claims that these were bought for entertainment purposes. There are products in the list that *are* clearly intended for personal consumption. As for the wine and whisky purchases which we and those expressing their views on our face book page accept may be for official entertainment, the questions that are raised concern the specific products purchased. Is it necessary that the whisky and wine purchased by your office should be amongst the most expensive brands available?

There has also been comment on the decision to hold a costly function hosted by the provincial legislature at a venue in which your daughter is involved in providing catering services. Again your explanation – namely, that you had declared your interest in your daughters company - is not accepted. Surely simply declaring your interest in a service provider does not then permit you to push business its way? You may argue that you had nothing to do with the decision regarding the venue chosen or the catering service utilised by the venue in question. Frankly, those writing into our face book page do not believe this. Because the conduct in question has the appearance of corruption, the public believe it to be corrupt, particularly when it is put together with your use of public funds to purchase personal groceries and hygiene products and expensive alcoholic beverages. The public response to this clearly exhibits the two most damaging features of corruption: firstly the utilisation of public funds for private gain; and secondly, and arguably as serious, a growing erosion of trust in public officials and elected representatives.

We respectfully ask you to respond to two questions which we pose in the public interest.
We would like to know:

1. Would you be prepared to reimburse the public funds spent on groceries and alcoholic products?
2. Would you be willing to undertake that companies owned by you or your family will no longer benefit in any way from contracts entered into by the legislature?

We would appreciate your reply which we undertake to share with our followers and the public.

Yours sincerely

David Lewis
Executive Director

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