



# LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

It's your voice, use it!

22 June 2026

## **RECKLESS AND MALICIOUS PRESS RELEASE BY NEWS 24 AND ITS RELATED MEDIA HOUSES**

We have woken up to a reckless and malicious press release by News24 on its online platforms. Firstly, it is not true that either the Secretary to the Legislature and/or the General Manager Communication Services have failed to respond to the questions by the journalist from News24 Mr Norman Masungwini. Even this day, we have checked in all sources that are used to receive communications, and we still could not find anything. Perhaps the Journalist shall provide the means of communications at the right time.

Regarding the issue on the appointment of the Secretary to the Legislature, he has presented himself before a panel that interviewed him and was found to be successful. It is common cause that since his appointment, there has been major improvements within the Legislature most importantly, strengthening of internal controls. As a result of such an approach, there has been numerous attempts to try and defocus him without success.

On the issue of dismissal, the matter was adequately responded to the journalist who continue to raise it as fact. Truth of the matter is that the Secretary to the Legislature was never dismissed by Mopani District Municipality hence the former Executive Mayor who is currently a Member of the Provincial Legislature even issued Dr Maake with a letter of reference wherein she even appreciated his contribution for putting in place adequate systems to run the municipality. Such a copy can be made available by the Secretary to the Legislature upon request.

The journalist state as fact that Talane and Associates was appointed to the Legislature's panel of attorneys in November 2024, the same month Maake took office. It is a worrying fact that a journalist with an understanding of the Code of Conduct can choose to mislead the public in this manner while he knows the truth as presented in the response by Talane Attorneys to him. Talane Attorneys were not appointed as panel of attorneys but for the forensic investigations which has been completed.



@LimpopoLegislature



@LPLegislature



@limpopolegislature



@limpopolegislaturelive



limpopoleg.gov.za

Regarding the issue of family relationship with any member from Talane Attorneys, we still deny the existence of such. It is our understanding that family relationship refers to a social group of two or more people connected by blood, marriage, adoption or deep emotional commitment. In this regard, none of the people mentioned in the media statement are connected with the Secretary to the Legislature either by blood, marriage, adoption or deep emotional commitment. Anyone who holds a view that the Secretary is family to the Founder and Principal of Talane Attorneys is more than welcome to present any form of evidence.

On the payment to Talane Attorneys, it must be stated that they were paid for the forensic services that they have performed at the Legislature focusing on the period 2019/20 to 2024/25 financial years. The findings of the investigation have uncovered shocking malfeasants, maladministration, fraud and corruption that has been happening at the institution without impunity. Some of the findings involve the deletion of financial transactions from the financial system of the Legislature leading to a financial loss estimated at R37 million only for one financial year. There were findings as well that involve some travel management companies who inflated prices when providing services to the Legislature. These and many other findings resulted in an estimated financial loss by the Legislature of almost R136m.

On the matter of an earlier media report by News24, it does not come as a surprise that the journalist is still reporting about it in a false manner despite the responses that were provided to him. It is a fact that the Legislature did not spend R30 million in one financial year on legal fees and the amount quoted by the journalist covers three financial years including the current financial year.

On the accusations that the Secretary to the Legislature is engaged in a political faction fight against Premier Ramathuba, we deny such accusations as the Legislature is bound by the provisions of the Constitution in conducting its business and one such business is to facilitate the platform for the Hon Premier to address the people of Limpopo Province on an annual basis and such occasions have always been successful as a demonstration of the good working relationship between the two institutions.

We want to deny any claim that there were any payments generated over a weekend or processed due to the conference of the ANC. The truth of the matter is that employees within the Finance department applied to work overtime in order to meet with the requirements of the year-end procedures as contained in the approved memo from the Chief Financial Officers. It is common practice in the

public and private sector that proper year-end procedures must be in place, and such is not immune with the Legislature.

As we conclude, we would like to state that the continuous attack on the character of the Secretary to the Legislature is motivated by an attempt to halt the implementation of good internal controls and the recommendations from the forensic investigation. We shall continue to humble ourselves before the people of Limpopo Province in executing our responsibilities.

**Issued by**  
**Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature**  
**Dr M.T Maake**

**Enquiries : Mr. Andries Lekalakala**  
**Contact – 071 401 0053**  
**Manager Communication Services**  
[lekalakalam@limpopoleg.gov.za](mailto:lekalakalam@limpopoleg.gov.za)

