



To : **South African Human Rights Commission**
: Zamantungwa Mbeki

From : **Obakeng Ramabodu**
: **EFF Tshwane Regional Chairperson**

Date : 01 October 2024

Subject : Response to Complaint and Allegations. Human Rights Commission.

Dear South African Human Rights Commission,

I am writing to address the complaint regarding my remarks made during the City of Tshwane Council meeting on 25 July 2024. I deeply regret the incident and offer my heartfelt apologies for any distress caused by my words. Herein, I will respond comprehensively to each point raised in your communication, while acknowledging the gravity of the situation and my commitment to rectifying any harm caused.

First and foremost, I apologize for any inconvenience caused by my unavailability on 2 September 2024. I understand the importance of timely communication and regret any delay in addressing this serious matter. I hold the South African Human Rights Commission in the highest regard. Your mandate to promote and protect human rights is crucial for our society. I fully recognize and respect the Commission's authority and am committed to cooperating fully with your investigation.

I acknowledge the Commission's powers under the South African Human Rights Commission Act to investigate human rights violations. I am prepared to take full responsibility for my actions and to assist the Commission in its efforts to uphold justice and human rights. The complaint references my inflammatory remarks during the Council meeting. I deeply regret and apologize for these statements, which were made in the heat of the moment following provocations and threats. My words were inappropriate, and I am genuinely sorry for any harm caused.

I understand the necessity of your investigation into potential human rights violations. My remarks were unlawful and contrary to the values of respect and dignity that I strive to uphold. I am committed to learning from this incident and making amends. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to these serious allegations. I am ready to engage in any necessary discussions or proceedings to rectify this situation. I recognize the gravity of my remarks and am willing to apologize formally to all those affected.

I wish to extend my heartfelt apologies to anyone who felt threatened or hurt by my words. I understand the importance of fostering a culture of respect and am committed to turning this incident into a learning experience, both for myself and my community. I am open to resolving this matter through mediation, conciliation, or negotiation, as suggested. I believe that through honest dialogue and sincere apologies, we can work towards healing and reconciliation. I am committed to this process and to rebuilding trust.

I request that any further communications be directed to the Speaker of the Tshwane Council. I have already withdrawn my remarks and offered an unconditional apology. I am more than willing to reiterate this apology and take any additional steps required to demonstrate my remorse and commitment to fostering a respectful and inclusive environment. It is important to note that the Speaker of the Council requested that I withdraw my remarks and apologize, which I did unconditionally. If there is a need to reiterate this apology, I am more than willing to do so to ensure that the matter is resolved amicably.

My remarks were made during a highly charged Council meeting, where I felt provoked and threatened. However, I understand that this context does not excuse my words. I am committed to addressing the underlying issues and working towards a more respectful and constructive dialogue in the future. I am dedicated to upholding the principles of human rights in my role as a Council member. This incident has been a significant learning experience for me, and I am committed to ensuring that my actions reflect the values of respect, dignity, and equality.

I specifically wish to apologize to the Afrikaner community for my remarks. My words were hurtful and inappropriate, and I deeply regret any pain they may have caused. The utterances stemmed from a misunderstanding and reference to the saying "muur 'n Boer," which I never intended to cause harm. I am committed to fostering unity and understanding among all communities. I am taking steps to ensure that such incidents do not recur. This includes seeking guidance and training on respectful communication and conflict resolution. I believe that by improving my own conduct, I can contribute to a more positive and inclusive environment in the Council and beyond.

I am fully committed to engaging with the Commission throughout this process. I will provide any information or assistance required to support your investigation and to demonstrate my commitment to rectifying this situation. I fully acknowledge the harm that my remarks may have caused. I am deeply sorry for any distress or division that resulted from my words, and I am committed to making amends and working towards healing and reconciliation.

This incident has been a wake-up call for me. I am committed to changing my behavior and ensuring that my actions align with the values of respect and dignity. I will strive to be a better representative for my community and to promote a culture of human rights. I am committed to supporting human rights initiatives within the Council and the broader community. This includes advocating for policies and practices that promote equality, respect, and inclusion for all.

I am willing to engage directly with the Afrikaner community to apologize and to work towards mutual understanding and respect. I believe that through open dialogue, we can address any grievances and build a more united community. I am open to participating in mediation or other forms of conflict resolution to address this incident. I believe that through honest and respectful dialogue, we can achieve a resolution that promotes healing and reconciliation.

In conclusion, I offer my sincere and unreserved apology for my remarks during the Council meeting. I am committed to making amends and to working towards a more respectful and inclusive environment. I deeply regret any harm caused and am dedicated to ensuring that my future actions reflect the values of respect, dignity, and human rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with the Commission to resolve this issue constructively.

**ISSUED BY ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS TSHWANE CAUCUS
LEADER:**

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