**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**ETHICS COMMITTEE FINALISES THE MATTER OF ALLEGATION OF CONTRAVENTION OF CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT BY DR MKHIZE**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 12 April 2021 –** The Joint Committee on Ethics and Members’ Interests during its meeting on 11 April 2022 finalised deliberations on the complaint lodged against Dr Zwelini Mkhize for allegations of contravention of the Code of Ethical Conduct and Disclosures of Members Interests.

The complaint was in two parts, namely:

1. That Dr Mkhize’s son received benefits from Digital vibes to the alleged amounts of R300 000 and R160 000 and,
2. That Dr Mkhize received benefits from Digital Vibes totalling the amount of R6720.00 for electrical work done by 4-way Maintenance at a property in Bryanston.

The committee has found that Dr Mkhize did not breach the Code on the two accounts that the allegations were based. The committee must emphasise that its consideration of the complaints was within the set parameters of the code and thus exoneration is based on those limitations.

In respect to part one, the committee noted that the Code of Ethical Conduct and Disclosures of Members Interests for Assembly and Permanent Council Members defines immediate family member as “a Member’s spouse, permanent companion or dependent.” Thus, Dr Mkhize’s son doesn’t fall within the confines of immediate family member as per the code, as the son is an adult male who is not financially dependent on the Member.

On the second part, the committee considered documentary evidence before it and concluded, following its analysis, that Mr Thamsanqa Mkhize was the person who liaised with 4-way maintenance and the person charged with making payments totalling R6720.00. It is on this basis that the committee found that Dr Mkhize did not breach the Code of Ethical conduct and disclosures of Members Interests.

The committee considers the matter closed.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND MEMBERS’ INTERESTS, MR BEKIZWE NKOSI AND MS LYDIA MOSHODI.**

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