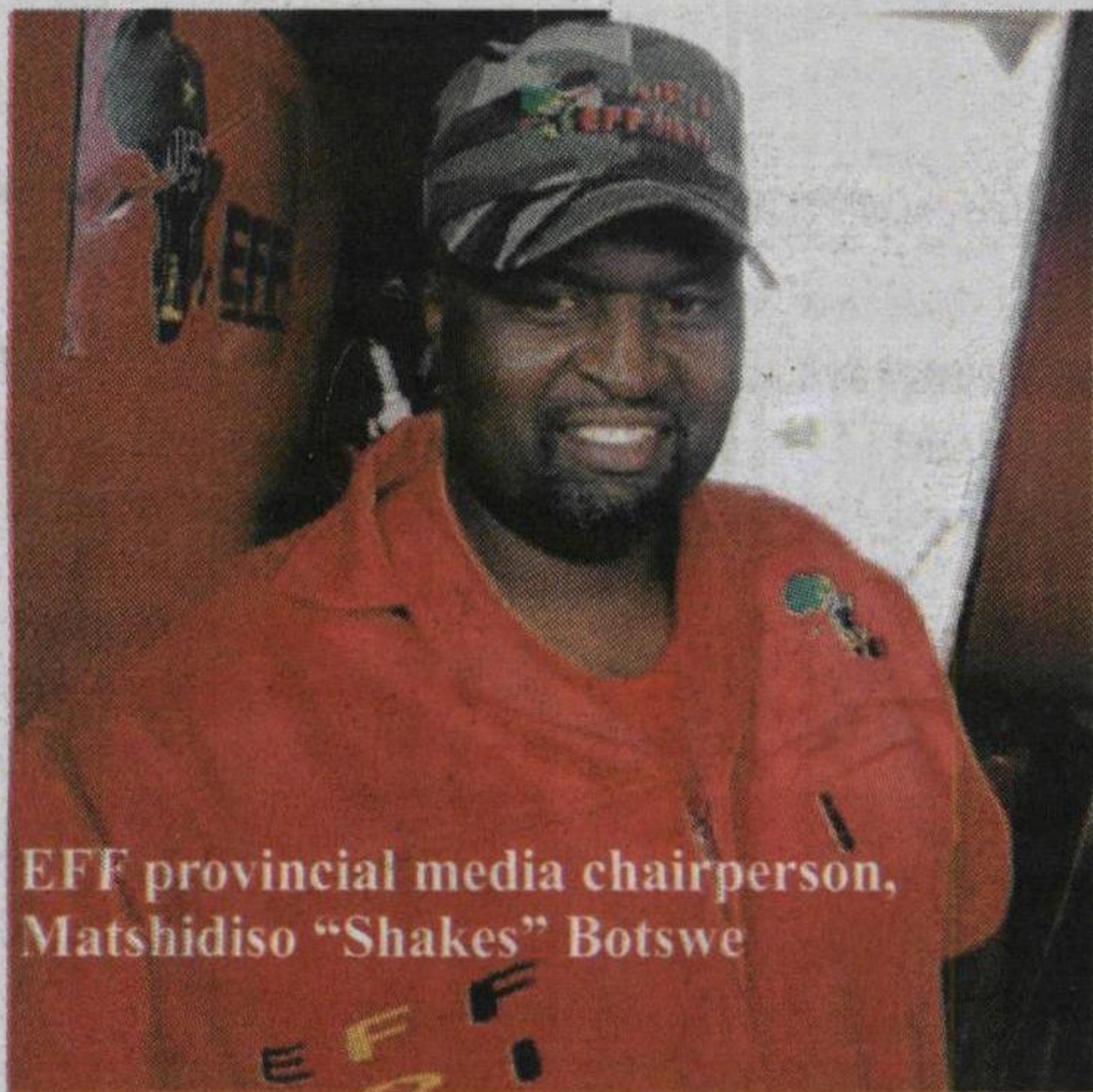


# EFF reacts to Mokgoro's SOPA presentation

By Lebogang Moeng



EFF provincial media chairperson, Matshidiso "Shakes" Botswe

Following the North West Premier, Professor Tebogo Job Mokgoro's presentation of the province' state of affairs two weeks ago, this

publication's editorial team deemed it fit to seek reaction from the two other political organizations represented in the legislature on their view of SOPA.

As a point of departure, it was appropriate to start with the official opposition, the Economic Freedom Fighters on their view with regard to the Premier's address to citizens of the province. The "Red Overalls" media chairperson in the North West, Matshidiso "Shakes" Botswe, emphasized that the Premier made a lot of promises that leaves a lot to be desired.

"How can we have more health facilities working 24 hours while the current ones are short-staffed and equally lack equipment such as oxygen tanks?" asked Botswe. He added that the 5<sup>th</sup> administration was described by maladministration and corruption, yet the people who actively participated in the "mess" have been carried over to the current

administration "which tells us that there is no clear and outright plan to deal with the sins of the past," added Botswe.

Responding to the issue of state-owned entities landing into the ownership of private individuals, Botswe said that the EFF believed that there was a need for building state power and to also capacitate all state-owned entities with qualified individuals who are ready to improve the province and the entities. "The current crisis we are seeing is that these state entities are being used to reward politicians through political deployments and many of them are facing serious challenges such as financial instability and lack of skills transfer methodology," he added.

He jumped at the opportunity to take a swipe at the ruling ANC-led government which he stated that it was "visionless, they just see everything as an opportunity for them to loot

s t a t e resources. We believe that m a n y facilities have been left to dilapidate purposely so that tomorrow multi-million projects will be procured from them. M m a b a t h o stadium is one of the largest stadia in the country and has always been known for hosting successful m a j o r tournaments such as the Vodacom challenge w h i c h included foreign countries teams and the Telkom Charity Cup. Today it is left

without utilization because of the idealess government that cannot preserve its inheritance," emphasized Botswe.

Botswe attributed the same sentiments with regard to the dilapidation of Lotlamoreng dam which was, according to him, allowed to happen on purpose and "now a multimillion rand project has been proposed and this is a sign of the level of thuggerism that we are dealing with in the ANC," he added. Regarding the pending upgrade at Mahikeng's long distance taxi rank, he said that all the EFF knew was that there was an intended project of upgrading from the National Department of Public Works, working together with a fuel company that intends building a filling station there in order to be of convenience for the taxi associations. Unconfirmed reports have alleged that the vacant piece of land adjoining the taxi rank belongs to the ousted former Premier Supra Mahumapelo's brother -in-law, who is also owner of the Mega City mall.

Responding to a question about members of the legislature from the ruling party, who has clouds of controversy hanging over their heads, Botswe responded as thus: "There is nothing new about questionable characters in the ANC led government, even the Premier is implicated in signing two deals that robbed the province a fortune hence he can't say anything. There are serious allegations that the Premier signed off the sale of wild animals in the province when he was the chairperson of the Sanparks in the province and equally there are allegations that the Premier signed off R51 million that went into a dubious project when he was Auditor General of the province. So there is an ongoing culture in the ANC to reward all those who are corrupt. We ought to remember that Molapisi was amongst the most corrupt MEC's in the 5<sup>th</sup> administration which saw the then Premier removing him as MEC. Madoda Sambatha was equally on par to those who had serious allegations of corruption levelled against him in the 5<sup>th</sup> administration both in the department of Public Works and the Department of Health. Bitsa Lenkopane and Aaron Motswana were removed from their respective municipalities as Mayors after they have led them into a disaster. This clearly shows the true persona of who and what the ANC is, it is a home and refugee camp for all the corrupt individuals of our society. The interest of corruption supersedes the interests of the community," concluded Botswe.