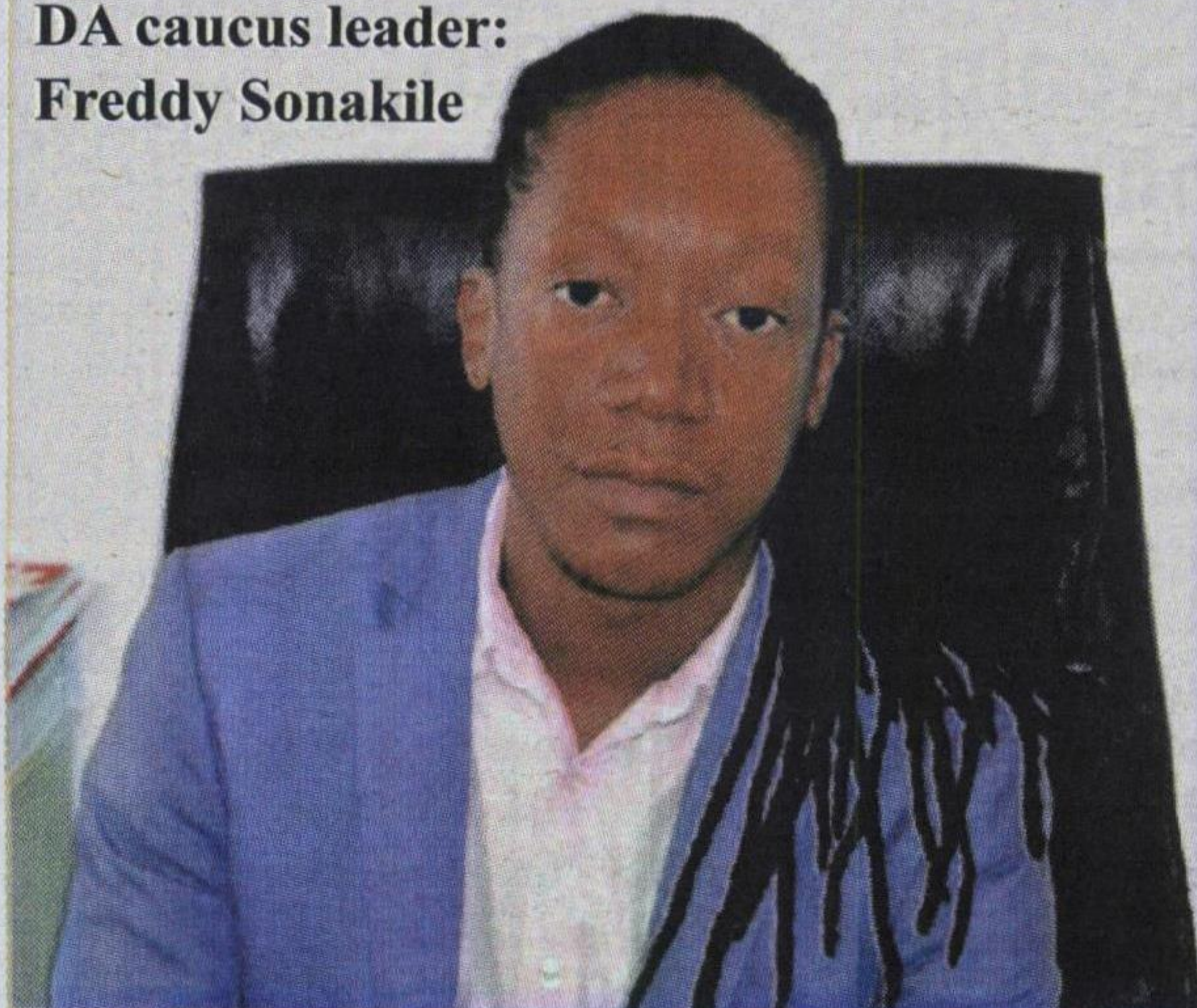


# DA response to Mokgoro' SOPA

By Staff Reporter

**DA caucus leader:  
Freddy Sonakile**



**T**he third majority party in the North West provincial legislature, the Democratic Alliance (DA), responded to questions that were asked by this publication on their views regarding the sixth administration' State of the Province Address (SOPA) that was delivered by Premier Professor Tebogo Job Mokgoro two weeks ago.

The Democratic Alliance caucus leader in the

provincial legislature, Freddy Sonakile stated that the Premier does seem determined to turn things around, but the question remains whether he has the manpower in his cabinet to execute all the promises made.

Regarding issues of political figures involved in cases of corruption and those with criminal records attached to their names, Sonakile stated that "as per our previous statement, we have called for the immediate resignation of MEC Molapisi due to his alleged involvement in SA Express contract with the Department of Public Works. Honourable Lenkopane has court cases underway and we therefore respect the judiciary process and will abide by the outcome. She was

however found guilty of fraud and assault before, meaning that she has a criminal record. It is therefore unclear how she made it to the North West Provincial Legislature, because the ANC undertook to remove those with criminal records from their list," he added.

On the issue of underutilized facilities in the

province, specifically focusing on the Mmabatho stadium, which continues to be a giant white elephant which only gets to be used during the festive season when it is time for the Mahika-Mahikeng music festival, Sonakile stated that his party condemned in the strongest terms any wasteful expenditure.

"The reality is that these expenses were incurred and now we need to find ways to utilize the facilities that we have. We have learned that the plans to renovate Mmabatho Stadium has been placed on hold, which is sad because surrounding schools make use of the stadium. Once it has been refurbished, it could be properly utilized. We will encourage the new Executive Council to utilise the stadium for departmental activities, especially that Department of Arts and Culture would market the stadium for potential private events. We will closely monitor the process to ensure that money is utilized for what it is budgeted for. For any irregularities found, we will call for criminal cases to be laid," stressed Sonakile.

On allegations of a R35 million project to have public toilets erected at the long distance taxi rank that surfaced during MEC Rosho's interview on Motswedding FM last week that the budget was approved and allocated for, the DA stated that "in principle the project seems like a good idea, because often these toilets

pose a health risk to the community, but we would like to see procurement processes followed in order to ensure that contractors are above board," added Sonakile.

He further stated that the DA was of the view that those implicated in corruption, should be jailed for a minimum of 15 years. He said that ultimately the DA would like to see consequences for those found guilty of any misconduct. On allegations of corruption involving current Premier over the contract sale of wild animals and the R51 m contract to SA Express even though the Premier stated that he is ready to testify at the Zondo Commission, Sonakile stated that the DA welcomes the fact that the Premier is willing to cooperate and "we will await his side of the story before we make any further statements in this regard.

Obviously, if he is found guilty, he, just like any other citizen in this province, should face the consequences," concluded Sonakile.

The ruling ANC could not state its position regarding their (ANC) view on SOPA with Gerald Modise stating that "there was no organizational structure in the province and he was therefore unable to issue out comment regarding the sixth administration State of the Province Address," he stated.