



NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Cnr. Carrington Str and 1st Avenue, Industrial Site, Mahikeng, 2745 | Tel: (018) 381 9400 | Fax (018) 381 4300
Private Bag X2165, Mahikeng, 2745 | www.nmmdm.gov.za

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Media Conference

Tuesday, 25th June 2013

10h00 a.m.

To all media

STATE OF THE NMMDM ON MEDIA ALLEGATIONS AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES

MAHIKENG – the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality (NMMDM) has been on the national media for various issues. It is against this backdrop that the leadership of this institution resolved to call this briefing to clarify some of these issues raised in the national media.

1. Investigation by the Public Protector Into allegations of corruption, maladministration, nepotism, wasteful and fruitless expenditure and victimization of workers by the Municipal Manager at Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

The leadership of this municipality is aware and welcomes the investigation by the Office of the Public Protector into allegations indicated above.

Allow us to at the outset express the following sentiments:

- The complaint, which is essentially two-pronged, seems to be driven by ulterior motives.
- It attacks the administration and Council, and seeks to project the administration as abysmal and Council as useless.

- The afore-going explanation will hopefully bring to the fore the motives of the complainants.

Insofar as there are allegations on discipline within the workplace, it is apposite to record the following:

- Enforcement of workplace discipline is strictly regulated in the local government sector.
- Managers reporting to the municipal manager are regulated by the Municipal Performance Regulations for Municipal Managers and Managers directly accountable to the Municipal Manager (GG 29089 OF 1 August 2006), Disciplinary Regulations for Senior Managers (GG 34213 of 21 April 2011) and the Municipal Systems Act of 2000.
- Ordinary employees are on the other hand regulated by the SALGBC.
- Any workplace decision that employees frown upon is challenged though the Labour Relations Act. This is the basic right that each employee has and it is being used accordingly.
- The above exposition is necessary insofar as it is now apparent that workplace disciplinary matters have found their way to the Public Protector's desk. Normal labour relations processes were not followed and it remains a moot point why this forum was chosen to adjudicate on labour related matters.

2. Response to the CONFIDENTIAL PROVISIONAL REPORT on an own investigation into the spillage of waste water into the Groot Marico River and the Karee-spruit due to the mismanagement of the Waste Water Treatment Plants in Groot Marico and Zeerust by the Public Protector.

As confirmed by the Public Protector, It should be noted that the Report clearly states that:

- "This report is confidential and is meant for the parties to whom it is submitted. The report may not in any way be disseminated or published by any of the parties and is meant only for their comments in terms of Section 7(9) of the Public Protector Act, 1994".
- Therefore as per our interaction with the Public Protector on the 11th of June 2013, we cannot discuss this confidential provisional report which those who have just done the opposite have committed misconduct

against the Office of the Public Protector as well as the NMMDM – and by doing so, have brought the name of both institutions into disrepute.

The municipality further acknowledges that the Public Protector is a Chapter 9 Institution legislated to investigate and give clarity on matters of public interest. The Political Leadership of the Municipality has already interacted with the Public Protector's Office and responded to some requests. As an organ of state – NMMDM is fully cooperating with the Public Protector as expected.

3. Allegations into the procurement of a R2.4 million marquee tent for the State of the District Address for 2013.

- The Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality hosted its annual State of the District Address for 2013. This occasion provides a platform for the Executive Mayor to outline the budget and corporate targets of the municipality in the next Financial Year.
- NMMDM hosted this significant event on Thursday 20th June 2013 at Makgobistad Village in the greater Ratlou Local Municipality.
- Much to our dismay – a Sowetan newspaper which perceives itself to be reputable, went ahead and blatantly lied about specific procurement issues which relates to tent, chairs & tables.
- Despite having responded to the media enquiry by Sowetan on the 19th June 2013, the newspaper continued to publish misleading headline on their daily newspaper on the 20th of June 2013, read very loud that this municipality spent R2.4 million on the procurement of tents, chairs and tables. It further alleged that procurement processes were not followed in acquiring these services claiming to have documents proving same. But, the newspaper fell short to accede to the request of the municipality;
- We are not aware of any service provider or services amounting to the tune of R 2,4 million that has been procured for the said event by the Municipality;
- We therefore wish to confirm to you that there is no service provider and or services that have been appointed in outside the provisions or contravention of the Municipal Finance Management Act.

It is our conclusion that the journalist and the newspaper are conniving with certain individuals to ridicule the leadership of this municipality both politically and

administratively. This very newspaper recently alleged that the Municipal Manager appointed his wife in one of the senior positions in the municipality. For the record – this is an opportunistic, mischievous and misleading, which has no basis, is devoid of any truth whatsoever.

We note the contents of the publication and view them on a serious light. The District Municipality therefore consider taking the matter up with the Press Ombudsman and individuals mentioned reserves their own rights.

In conclusion:

The NMMDM wants to confirm its support to the administrative leadership that have steered this municipality from its state of administrative disorder to where we are today. Furthermore, we want to re-affirm that we would not hesitate to take procedural disciplinary actions against anyone including the Municipal Manager if required.

Anybody who wants to advocate change in the composition of Council must use Constitutional processes to effect such change.

The Municipality undertake to achieve 2014 clean audit as per government resolution;

That rumours should not be elevated to a level of facts;

End.

Issued by:

NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY POLITICAL LEADERSHIP