

EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CALLS FOR MEC FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO INSTITUTE INDEPENDENT SECTION 106 INVESTIGATIONS AND MALADMINISTRATION AND UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS.

The Executive Mayor was elected to head the District Municipality, after the demise of the late Executive Mayor Councillor Busisiwe Modisakeng. This is also post the release of the section 106 investigation report which was instituted by the former MEC of Local Government in Gauteng Lebohang Maile, headed by Advocate Mukhari, whose investigations established that the now late Municipal Manager Stanley Khanyile had committed acts of malfeasance and maladministration.

The recommendations of Adv Mukhari are still not fully implemented due to the slow implementation of consequence management and the recovery of losses from the estate of the late Mr Khanyile, and the failures by the current Municipal Manager to recover money from some of the legal firms implicated in overbilling the Municipality on work awarded to them irregularly as per the Adv Mukhari report.

Over the last three years the Sedibeng District Municipality, has been struggling to produce a funded budget owing to bloated staff which the current administration inherited, resulting in the municipality not being able to fund and implement key service delivery projects planned.

Instead, the municipal administration has been focusing on priorities that are not benefiting our local communities or of little significant impact

Despite all these challenges the municipality has consistently failed to adopt a funded budget.

The Executive Mayor since assuming office was committed to reducing wastage, reducing unwanted expenditure. This resulted in the dismissal of certain senior officials for causing irregular expenditure and irregular procurement whilst acting as Municipal Managers after the murder of the late Mr Stanley Khanyile.

The Executive Mayor (Lerato Maloka) urged council to assist her in appointing a new municipal manager and in 2022/23 financial year, Mr Mustumi Mathe was appointed as the Municipal Manager in June 2022.

Mr Mathe upon his appointment was charged with the responsibility of stabilising the municipal administration as chief amongst other things and appoint the CFO and other senior managers within six months, a task he dismally failed to execute resulting in the appointment of the senior managers being done only in 25 months later after council and the Executive Mayor's intervention.

The last three years have been difficult, fraught with a litany of accusations against the Executive Mayor, several failed motions of no confidence and a rebellion from within the members of the Mayoral Committee.

Needless to state that the latest saga, that is in the public domain of an accusation against the Executive Mayor of stealing the mayoral chain after an undetected break-in at Executive Mayor's Office.

Subsequently, the Municipal Manager and the Manager Security have opened a criminal case against the Executive Mayor in this regard.

The Purpose of the Media Briefing

The briefing is to let the people of Sedibeng, and South Africa, know how difficult it is, when you are a woman leader . This is in the public interest and accountability that I have these measures to convene this briefing.

I have written to the MEC of Local Government in Gauteng Mr Jacob Mamabolo, to institute another section 106 investigation into maladministration in the municipality and to the Public Protector. The scope and extent of such an investigation must and not be limited to areas I have referred to MEC namely:

Matters Referred to section 106 and Public Protector

A. MALADMINISTRATION

- Irregular appointment, promotion of staff by the Municipal Manager despite the municipality budget being unfunded.
- Failure to provide reports to provincial government on the HIV/Aids Grant
- Subverting the criminal investigation instituted against the Executive Mayor on the theft Mayoral Chain widely spoken about in the media without evidence.
- The MM has irregularly paid himself and other approximately one million without council approval.
- Misleading Council, in the appointment of senior managers by presenting incorrect competency assessment against at least one senior manager he did not want or like for unknown personal reasons and presenting a false report to council that a former employee who had applied for senior management position was blacklisted in the National Treasury database.
- Failure to conclude Performance agreements with the newly appointed senior managers and CFO, within 60 days of their appointments thus contravened the regulations on the appointment of senior managers.
- Irregular procurement of goods and services of which I will be hand over to the MEC.
- Failure to disclose material information to his investigators he appointed by misleading the speaker to do so, all relevant information pertaining to the Mercedes GLB purchased for the use of the Executive Mayor, including the concealing of information pertaining to the accident or damage that was never report regarding the illegal use of the said Mercedes GLB prior being allocated to the Mayor by Tieho Miya.
- Making false allegations against the Executive Mayor and causing the speaker to table a false report regarding trip to Germany on HIV/AIDS conference sanctioned by the Department of Health from grant provided to the municipality, for her to attend the conference as part the Gauteng Aids Council, which the Executive Mayor is a member.

B. Governance

- Failure by the Speaker to properly and procedurally investigate allegations brought against the Executive Mayor. Instead, the speaker referred such to attorneys in contravention of Section 54 of the Municipal Systems Act, resulting in fruitless expenditure, since the outcome of such investigations have not produced any credible evidence to substantiate the bases of the accusations.
- The Speaker has failed to comply with terms of Section 14 subsection 7 regarding the Breaches of the Code of Conduct, because I am a councillor and the code is compulsory. disclose to me and council, the process followed to appoint such attorneys and the cost related thereto.
- Furthermore, the speaker prior to tabling these allegations against me in council deliberately misled council, by failing to comply with the same specific section where the rules of natural justice apply "to be given an opportunity to be heard."
- Despite all such investigations, to date the speakers has refused to provide me with copies of the report from the appointed attorneys as a matter of fact it doesn't implicate me as the public was led to believe.
- Strangely, the Speaker blatantly refuses, to convene council meetings to consider a report of the Executive Mayor on the investigations to be sanctioned by council in order to take action against the municipal manager. It is common knowledge that the manager paid himself and other directors approximately a million rand without getting prior council approval. This resulted in the Council resolution whereby this matter was referred to the Executive and **Councillor Holtzhausen of the Democratic Alliance** who is a lawyer to investigate the matter. And that is the report the speaker refuses to submit to council.
- It must be brought to your attention to know that the Municipal Manager who is not the secretary of council, underhandedly alters the minutes of the council assisted by the speaker to change the actual resolutions of the council to cover his discovered poor performance. Of grave concern is that to date, there are 4 sets of council minutes without being approved by council and the Speaker is complicit. In the agenda of the council of 28th may 2025, such minutes have still not being tabled for approval and adoption by council.
- The question that baffles me is why the speaker is flouting, the code of councillors, the council stand rules of order and appropriate herself authority not conferred by the municipal structures act or the Systems Act

This is not an exhaustive list of matters that will be referred, the detail report on the scope and extend of the investigation will be released by the MEC of Local Government at an appropriate time.

WHY RELEASE TO THE MEDIA AT THIS TIME

As the political head of this municipality empowered by section 56 of the Municipal Structures Act and section 131 of the MFMA. My efforts to get the council to heed my advices, to comply with the law of the republic as organ state and to do so in the best interest of the public have fallen on deaf ears.

I have instead, become a victim of public scorn, I have been countlessly intimidated, unfairly harassed and had the media unleashed on me to spread falsehoods. I could opted to remain quite as I did over the past eighteen months. I do so now because, I am tired of looking over my shoulder, all the time for fear of my life.

I trust that my request for these investigations will be objective and independent enough even if I will be subjected thereto.

I thank you.

Media Enquiries: