



MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY BELIEVES THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH ACQUIRING OR SECURING A LOAN TOWARDS THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE, THE DELIVERY OF THE RIGHT QUALITY OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES IS IN LINE WITH THE BACK TO BASICS MANDATE OF TAKING LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORWARD

Local municipalities are spheres of government that are closest to the people. This is where many basic services are delivered to ensure that lives are changed for the better. Mantsopa Local Municipality put its people's concerns first by listening to them and seeking ways to redress them as well as improving their livelihood.

It is true that Mr. Zidhaan Pillay was appointed by the Free State Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (FSCOGTA) to assist municipalities within the province with the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) Infrastructure loan application. The role of COGTA in the South Africa is to build and strengthen the

capacity and accountability of provinces and municipalities within the country. This is the same with the FSCOGTA to the municipalities within the Free State province and they are doing a wonderful job.

With regards to how Mr. Pillay was appointed, that was the discretion of the FSCOGTA and it would be improper for us as the municipality to comment on that. It is best that you engage the department directly in order to get a thorough explanation on how Mr. Pillay was appointed.

To address the issue of the disclaimers that the municipality received previously. I would like to emphasize that we are working tirelessly to redress the audit challenges. Earlier this year, the FSCOGTA appointed IMESA and PWC to assist us as the municipality as we are gearing towards the attainment of a clean audit. The Free State MEC of Finance, Me Elzabe Rockman, expressed her satisfaction with the progress that the municipality has made thus far.

The Municipality complied with all applicable prescripts of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 and the Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000

The loan is meant for various infrastructural projects focusing on roads and stormwater drainage system, water and sanitation, electrification of new areas and refurbishment of existing ageing infrastructure in the municipalities within the province. The Municipality complied with all applicable prescripts of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 and the Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000 amongst others during the loan application process.

As the municipality we do not believe it is wrong to acquire a loan towards service delivery or towards ensuring that the municipality delivers quality services to its people. The municipality upholds the five pillars of Back To Basics which are meant to move local government forward.

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Mantsopa Local Municipality

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