



## **MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PRESS RELEASE**

DATE: 29 OCTOBER 2015

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' STRIKE ACTION WAS ILLEGAL AND WAS AN  
UNNECESSARILY HAMPERING SERVICE DELIVERY BECAUSE WORKERS  
GRIEVANCES WERE BEEN DEALT WITH EVEN BEFORE THE STRIKE**

The municipality is apologetic for any inconveniences experienced by the public within the greater Mantsopa Local Municipality due to the strike action by municipal employees since 26th to 27th of October 2015.

Mantsopa Local Municipality would like to assure that the state of affairs is back to normal since yesterday, all municipal workers have reported to their duties and the delivery of services to public is in return to normal routine.

The grievances of municipal workers, as represented by various union shopstewards, were heard of by the municipality and were dealt with by relevant municipal departments. Proactively, there were two separate meetings by both the Mayor, Cllr

Dennis Ntsepe, and the Municipal Manager, Mr. Selby Selepe, with the workers requesting them to report back to duty as their grievances were attended to in vain.

The municipality therefore would like to clarify that all municipal employees were paid their monthly salaries in full as a norm. The problem was with the manner in which notch increases to employees were implemented by the municipality as per the agreement with the bargaining board. Before the strike took place, the municipality was already dealing with the matter. Also, it was made clear to employees that their strike was illegal and a principle of NO WORK NO PAY would be applied if employees did not report to duty. The municipality will be applying this principle because employees did not report to duty when asked to.

Additionally, with regards to the quality of water and interrupted circulation thereof, the strike action by municipal employees had nothing to do with the circumstances. This was because water was released from Katse Dam and the flow of it into our water system entry had negative impact to our system. The clarifiers got blocked, sludge filled up and damaged all the filters hence the quality of water was the way it was since Saturday of 25th of October 2015. The interruption of water circulation was due to the immediate maintenance that needed to be undertaken due to this consequences and NOT because municipal employees were on strike. The municipal water circulation is back to its normal state as well as other essential services that the municipality renders to its people.

Once again, the municipality profusely apologises for any inconveniences that this strike action caused to all community members of the greater Mantsopa Local and we appreciate your understanding in this regard.

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Mantsopa Local Municipality

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