

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE : September 16, 2020

RE : ADMINISTRATION

As you may be aware, JB Marks Municipality is currently under investigation by the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) as directed by the State President. The investigation follows a report the Municipal Manager and the CFO presented to the Provincial SCOPA in connection with the spending of COVID 19 PPE's and other related matters. SCOPA had raised queries in relation to this spending and subsequently requested this investigation.

Consequently, these investigations have been going on for some time now and interviews have been held with the municipal manager. On Thursday last week the investigating team informed the Executive Mayor that they needed access to a number of computers at our finance department and thus took these along with them. There is nothing untoward in this regard as this is generally what happens during the course of such investigations.

As for officials that are claimed to have resigned, our human resource unit has confirmed that the supply chain manager has indeed submitted a formal resignation letter. It is also true that the municipal manager is currently on leave. However, it is untrue that he collapsed on duty.

We can also confirm that the administrator, Mr. Thupi Mokhatla, has indeed assumed his duties with effect from September 8, 2020 following the invocation of Section (1) (b) of the Constitution (RSA).

His role entails amongst others the following:

1. Facilitate the improvement of governance and oversight with Council as well as relations between Council and administration;
2. Stabilize,, improve and manage overall governance and administration of municipality;

3. Improve the financial controls , expenditure management, procurement processes, revenue enhancement, debt collection as well as address the AG's reports;
4. Investigate all awarded contracts to establish validity and legitimacy thereof in terms of applicable regulations;
5. Improve service delivery prioritization on water and sanitation services;
6. Analyze and implement past and current investigations;
7. Attend to labor and legal matters, including to investigate and take corrective action on irregular personnel appointments, restore labor stability, outstanding disciplinary cases, labor disputes, maintenance of personnel discipline as well as ensure labor forum functionality.

The Municipal Manager still remains the accounting officer and head of administration in terms of section 55 of the Systems Act. So even under the current intervention the municipal manager still keeps his responsibilities allocated to his office by the MFMA and other relevant legislation.

However, when doing his duties, the municipal manager will exercise caution and observe the Administrator's role as mentioned above. The municipal manager and his management will now henceforth report to the Administrator.

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