

Ref: 4/4/1

Date : 10 May 2022

REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF WARD COMMITTEES MANGAUNG MUNICIPALITY APRIL 2022

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to appraise the Municipal Council on the election of the ward committees for the Council term 2022 until 2026.

2. DELIBERATIONS

Mangaung Municipality is formed by six towns, namely Botshabelo, Dewetsdorp, Soutpan, Thaba Nchu, Wepenaar, with the city of Bloemfontein serving both as the administrative and legislative headquarters. The municipality has a total of 37 villages mainly adjacent and surrounding the Thaba Nchu area, more than 107 farming communities which are well documented within the length and breadth of the municipality, from the south of Soutpan, the Glen area in the north, along the N1 route, through to the western part of Bloemfontein, comprised of Bainsvlei, Mooiriver, Groenvlei, Kenilworth and surrounding areas and to the south, made up of areas of Ferreira, Bloemdal, Kelly'sview, Qwaggafontein, while Estoire, Masselspoort, Bloemspruit, Martindale, Lynchfield, highveld and lakeview areas are to the east, there are about 21 farming areas around Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu also has a number higher than 12 farming areas, with the exception of the 37 villages. Dewetsdorp is surrounded by 36 surrounding farming areas, and to the south of the municipality is Wepenaar which has vast lands up to the farming community of Van Stadensrus, this community is entirely dependent on the adjacent farming activities.

Mangaung has a total of 51 wards and the majority or most of the wards, 32 are found in and around Bloemfontein, 12 wards are in Botshabelo with 6 wards in Thaba Nchu area, and the remaining ward enveloping Dewetsdorp and Wepenaar. Mention should be made of four wards which are stretched over vast areas, this four wards are as follows, ward 41 (has a total of 25 villages mainly in Thaba Nchu), ward 51 (include 5 villages in Thaba Nchu, the whole of Dewetsdorp, Wepenaar and including van Stadenrus), ward 44 (stretching in the Bloemfontein north suburb's, including plots in the north and the whole of Ikgomotseng location in Soutpan and ward 43 (starts in two villages in Thaba Nchu, to Dewetsdorp and through Wepenaar and ending at Van Standensrus, ward 51 start in farms in the south of Bloemfontein until place called

Tierpoort on the outskirts of N1 and to farms in along the N6 through Grootvlei, Phomolong and Phase 7, 9 and 10).

Connecting routes to the six towns, with Bloemfontein at the center are as follows, namely;

Bloemfontein (Bram Fischer) to:

Botshabelo	N8 route	55 km
Thaba Nchu	N8 route	65 km
Soutpan	R700 route	48 km
Dewetsdorp	R702 route	75 km
Wepenaar	R702 route	121 km
Van Stadensrus	R702 route	152 km

Census 2019 Demographics survey:

Item Area	Age structure	Total
Total population		878 834
Age analysis	Under 15 years	27%
	15 to 64 years	68%
	Over 64 years	5%
Total household's		240 700
		Percentage
Urban center concentration	Bloemfontein	65%
	Botshabelo	19%
	Thaba Nchu	8%
	Dewetsdorp	4%
	Wepenaar	3,2%
	Soutpan	0,8%

The above illustration is intended to summarize the land mass (6 284 km²) and demographics of the Mangaung municipality and the imminent challenge and task at hand regarding supervision, management and coordination of ward committee activities in the future.

2.1. NOMINATION PROCESS

Nomination forms to stand as a ward committee member were opened for all wards during office hours, forms were available in our regional offices, including from the office of the Speaker.

A nominated person must:

- Be a resident in the ward, have a valid South African ID, be above the age of 18 and be a volunteer or community activist in the ward (served as an added advantage)
- Be nominated by two community members who are registered voters in the same ward accept the nomination by signing the nomination form and;
- the nominated candidate had to further receive a total of 21 signatures of residents within the ward who supported his /her candidature.

- Attach copy of their ID document and proof of voter registration to the nomination form.

Opening and closing dates for nominations started on the 5th of January 2022 and closed on the 11th of February 2022.

Completed forms were to be submitted to the relevant regional offices of the Speaker by no later than 11th of February 2022 or alternatively completed forms were deposited in the ward committee box in the Bram Fischer atrium at 16h00.

3. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY IMPERATIVES

Ward committees and its establishment are provided for in the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998. In short, the following legal principles are applicable to ward committees:

'ward committee' is defined as a ward committee established in terms of section 73 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998;

- the object of a ward committee is to enhance participatory democracy in local government;
- only metropolitan and local municipalities of the types that include ward participatory systems may elect ward committees;
- if a municipality establishes ward committees, it must establish a ward committee for each ward in the municipality;
- ward committee consists of the councillor representing that ward in the council, who must also be the chairperson and not more than 10 other members;
- the municipality must make rules regulating functioning of the ward committees;
- the procedure to elect the members of a ward committee, taking into account the need for women to be equitably represented in a ward committee and for a diversity of interests in the ward to be represented,
- the circumstances under which those members must vacate office,
- the frequency of meetings of ward committees;
- a ward committee may make recommendations on any matter affecting its ward to the ward councillor or through the ward councillor, the Speaker or the executive mayor, to the municipality.

Mangaung Municipality developed and adopted the Ward Committee By-laws in 2012, which are still in force, but require to be reviewed and updated in line with the amended Structures Act. Moreover the Remunerations Committee will be tabling Ward Committee Stipends Allowance policy in line with the Structures Amendment Act , which policy will be effective from the date of approval by Council.

4. OVERVIEW AND STATUS OF WARD ELECTIONS PROCESS

A. BLOEMFONTEIN

Wards	Voting date	Status	Challenges
01	06/04/2022	Completed	Some community members were hostile and 3 or 4 members threatened violence however it settled down and elections continued
02	07/04/2022	Completed	
03	07/04/2022	Completed	A group of youth from Silver city demanded postponement, but after explanations, the process continued
04	28/04/2022	Completed	
05	06/04/2022	Completed	The rains were heavy on the day, postponed to the 23 April 2022
06	21/04/2022	Completed	The rains were heavy on the day, postponed to the 21 April 2022
07	08/04/2022	Completed	Two venues had lighting limitations and voting closed at 6:20 pm and at Presbyterian Church, officials requested to leave the venue half way the election process and had work outside in the street
08	03/04/2022	Completed	Community members disrupted voting and requested sufficient notice to be given and convened few days later where elections took place
09	30/03/2022	Completed	
10	03/04/2022	Completed	The rains were heavy on the day, nature thus influenced low turn-out
11	03/05/2022	Completed	
12	02/04/2022	Completed	The weather was overcast and rains started as voting was occurring so members moved into a church
13		Completed	
14	07/04/2022	Completed	
15	07/04/2022	Completed	
16	04/04/2022	Completed	Community members requested sufficient notice to be given and convened two days later where elections took place
17	06/05/2022	Completed	
18	11/04/2022	Completed	
19	05/04/2022	Completed	The rains were heavy on the day, nature thus influenced low turn-out
20	04/04/2022	Completed	
21	11/04/2022	Completed	
22	11/04/2022	Completed	
23	04/04/2022	Completed	
24	29/03/2022	Completed	
25	07/04/2022	Completed	

26	29/03/2022	Completed	
44	12/04/2020	Completed	
45	05/04/2022	Completed	
46	06/04/2022	Completed	
47	19/04/2022	Completed	Elections held at Estoire and majority of communities raised concern of been left out of the process
48	12/04/2020	Completed	
51	07/05/2022	Completed	Phomolong a new settlement, serious challenges of voters roll, residents come from different areas, and as a result managed differently
Total wards		32	

B. BOTSHABELO

WARD	Date	Status	Challenges
27	13/04/2022	Completed	
28	08/05/2022	Completed	Venues were unavailable to due easter weekend
29	09/04/2022	Completed	The rains were heavy on the day, nature thus influenced low turn-out
30	25/04/2022	Completed	
31	26/04/2022	Completed	The ward list consisted of 51 candidates & the highest, tensions were high, huge community discord which was spilling on the election process
32	03/04/2022	Completed	The rains were heavy on the day, nature thus influenced low turn-out. Community members opposed use of 5 venues and number was reduced to 3 so that voting stations are closer to community members
33	28/04/2022	Completed	
34	12/04/2020	Completed	Community members disrupted voting and requested sufficient notice to be given and convened few days later where elections took place
35	26/04/2022	Completed	
36	07/04/2022	Completed	
37			The rains were heavy on the day and meeting was postponed
38	05/04/2022	Completed	Was the last and attended on the 10 May
Total wards		12	

C. THABA NCHU

Ward	Date	Status	Challenges
39	10/04/2022	Completed	
40	10/04/2022	Completed	
41	08/04/2022	Completed	
42	07/04/2022	Completed	
43	10/04/2022	Completed	
49	08/04/2022	Completed	

D. DEWETSDORP

E.

Ward	Date	Status	Challenges
43	10/04/2022	Completed	
50	30/04/2022	Completed	Residents of van Standensrus disrupted proceeding and refused to vote
Total		2	

5. ELECTED WARD COMMITTEE

Names of elected ward committee members are enclosed as **annexure A**, in this report. Starting from ward 1 up to ward 51. The list indicating ward 38 election result will be made available during the Council meeting, as the election schedule had to be postponed up to the 10 May 2022 due to incessant rains, venue logistics and discord among community members as a result the date agreed upon had to be amended with the community and ward councillor. At time of report ward committee elections had been finalized and the objection notice and process had been published.

6. OBJECTIONS AND ENQUIRIES

The process of objections on the elected ward committees from the communities and our stakeholders had been opened from the **21st April until 30th April 2022**, and Speaker issued a notice of this process both to PR and ward councillors through social media platforms, print media and notices at all regional offices. Six critical objections were recorded, and All received objections had been recorded and most of them

- were about candidates who were not conscripted on the ballots;
- secondly other objections related to concerns regarding low turn-out during the election dates;
- venues that were inadequate for weather conditions and unavailable at time of scheduled meetings;
- other objections related to distant voting center's;
- one objection relate to a conflict of interest towards a ward councillor which relate to inclusion of family member as ward candidate;
- other objection relating to assistance provided to the elderly and the incapacitated members of the community;

7. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROCESS

The ward committee elections was a resounding success throughout the municipal landscape. No one predicted the changing weather patterns, which in some situations disrupted the program and the office had to make some changes, primarily due to the rains, also that impacting on venues, some of the dates had to be changed to accommodate the crowds of people who wanted to

exercise their democratic choice. In terms of the Ward Committee by-law, the election of the new ward committee is supposed to have been completed within 90 days after the municipal elections, however given administrative challenges and logistics, the MEC of COGTA was requested to consider extension, and indeed granted extension of the process until the end of April 2022, and for that we are indeed grateful.

8. OUR STAKEHOLDERS AND FUTURE COMPACT RELATIONS

Our stakeholders in the governance structure processes are as follows, namely, **SALGA**, Free State Provincial Government, National Government, Cities Network, Barolong Ba Seleke Traditional Authority, Free State University, Central University of Technology, UNISA, All Political Parties in Council, The Fourth Estate (Lesedi fm, Motheo fm, Mosupatsela fm, SA fm, Die Volksblaad, Ons Stad, the Express, The Issue newspapers and News 24 online), Census South Africa, the Independent Electoral Commission (**IEC**), South African Police Services (**SAPS**), The Military (**SANDF**), **SGBs** at schools and different Church formations and last but not list the transport industry (taxi organizations). All our stakeholders played critical role during the process and their future contribution and compact is appreciated and welcomed.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND GRATITUDE

We extend our gratitude and appreciation to ward councillors, chairpersons of section 79 committee, the staff in the office of the Speaker, staff in the Secretariat and Communication unit. With their service and commitment, the ward committee election process had been a great success. But above all we thank the community of Mangaung for participating in the elections process of ward committees, indeed this was democracy in action.

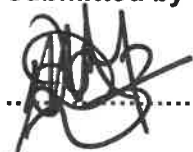
10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is hereby recommended that the;

- a) Municipal Council take note of the report;
- b) Municipal Council approves the report on the election of ward committees across all the wards;
- c) Municipal Council approves the date of functionality of ward committees effective from 01st May 2022;
- d) Speaker is requested to report quarterly per region on the functionality of ward committees;
- e) Speaker is mandated to organize SALGA induction program for all newly elected ward committees;

- f) Speaker is mandated to publicize in the local and digital print media, the names of all the elected ward committee members;
- g) Speaker is requested to review the Ward Committee By-laws and procedure manual and report back to Council in six months period from the date of this resolution;
- h) The Speaker is requested to investigate the option of introducing sub-committee structures in the four biggest wards in land mass (ward 51, ward 47, ward 41 and ward 43) and report back to Council in six months period from the date of this Council resolution.

Submitted by



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**MR DEAN MAASDORP
MANAGER: SPEAKER'S OFFICE**

SECONDED/ NOT SECONDED



.....
**MR TONYANA SELEBEDI
HOD: OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED



.....
**COUNCILLOR SB LOCKMAN-NAIDOO
SPEAKER**