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DIRECTORATE
OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

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Your Ref: Clr E Rasoeu

Our Ref: 12/1/9/4/2

Room 201, Bram Fischer Building

Date: 15 August 2022

Clr E Rasoeu

D.A Councillor

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality

Dear Clr Rasoeu

RESPONSE TO RULE 38 QUESTION.PROGRESS ON THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S FIRST HUNDRED (100) DAYS IN OFFICE

Your letter dated 7 June 2022 regarding the above-mentioned matter refers

QUESTION 1:

Executive Mayor you promised to review the audit report to improve the audit outcome. How far are you with this plan? What has been achieved so far? Any progress reports? Do you have any portfolio of evidence and kindly furnish one? If not, why not?

Response:

The Audit Report (Auditor-General's Report) is one of the components of the Annual Report and the review of this report goes with the review of the entire Annual Report. On 31 January 2022, the Executive Mayor tabled in Council the 2020/21 Annual Report which included the Audit Report in accordance with the provisions of MFMA Section 127(2). Refer to agenda item number 17.1 of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 31 January 2022 for ease of reference (POE). Annexure "A"

Subsequent to the tabling of the Annual Report on 31 January 2022, the Annual Report was referred to MPAC for processing in terms of Council resolution number 17.1(f), see resolution attached as annexure "A". Part of the work that MPAC should do on the Annual Report, is the review of such a report.

Once MPAC has concluded its work on the review of the Annual Report, it will table its OVERSIGHT Report in Council in accordance with MFMA Section 129(1), with a recommendation to Council to either approve the report with or without reservations, to reject the annual report or to refer it back for revision.

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The aforesaid is a clear indication that the Executive Mayor is well on cause to perform his responsibilities as outlined in his program of action. As part of his oversight role to ensure that the audit outcomes improve, the Executive Mayor will be monitoring the implementation of the Management Audit Action Plan that addresses all findings of Auditor-General and provide regular feedback reports to Council.

QUESTION 2:

You also promised to launch a campaign to address/curb the culture of non-payment? Did you launch the campaign? Where was the campaign first launched? Any evidence or portfolio of evidence? Any improvements regarding payments or culture of payment? Kindly furnish evidence.

Response:

The Office of the Executive Mayor has indeed launched the disconnection campaigns with the responsible directorates and MMCs. On Thursday, 10 March 2022, The Executive Mayor, jointly with the former Mangaung Metro's Acting City Manager, Mzingisi Nkungwana launched the City's Radical Revenue Collection Programme, at Hilton, Bloemfontein

The programme, is aimed at collecting debt owed to the City from defaulting customers. The initial focus of the programme was on government buildings and businesses, before moving to residents. Further campaigns, jointly with Office of the Speaker, will be launched in due course.

The office of the Speaker (which is responsible for public participation) has budgeted for those Imbizos and several other Public Participation campaigns in the new financial year which have been included in the annual calendar of the office.

QUESTION 3:

You promised to address water related losses (leakages)? How far are you with this promise? How many leakages where identified and fixed. Where around Mangaung Metro? Kindly provide a report or evidence.

Response:

The challenge regarding the leaks, was found to be matter beyond the control of the the Municipality, as the National Treasury, put a moratorium on all bids, received after 16 February 2020. This unfortunately led to the department running out of stock, of the required repair materials. It is anticipated that the Deviation Report, signed by the Intervention Team, will remedy the situation.

QUESTION 4:

You promised to ensure that Parks are in operation to generate income. Since you made the promise how many parks are functional or are opened? How much revenue have been generated by the operational parks? Kindly provide evidence?

Response

The only parks which are zoned as private open spaces and where a hiring fee is payable for any event, is Loch Logan Island and Kingspark Rose Garden. Referring to the current trends and statistics on how many applications and inquiries the division receive, it is evident that there is a dramatic decline in the popularity and hiring of these venues for outdoor events and that is contributing to the decline in revenue. The Covid pandemic is also a huge contributor to this phenomenon.

From an estimated revenue generated of R 28 832 for the year, only R 4 325,65 was collected to date.

The Municipality has 152 parks with infrastructure on it and all these parks are zoned a public open space. Due to its zoning, these facilities are free to be used by the community.

QUESTION 5:

You promised to generate income through law and enforcement-traffic fines and by laws? Has this promise been fulfilled? If yes kindly furnish evidence of the progress made this far? If not, why not?

Response:

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Mxolisi Siyonzana led a Reclaiming the City campaign in the Park Road (Willows area) on Friday, 25 March 2022. He was joined by Members of the Mayoral Committee. The traffic department was also on hand to check licenses of motorized transport.

The next phase of the campaign will be held at Hoffman Square, Meadows Road and Caleb Motshabi.

QUESTION 6:

Executive Mayor you also promised to generate income through outdoor activities? Any progress reports? How many outdoors activities done this far? Provide evidence please?

Response:

The only parks which are zoned as private open spaces and where a hiring fee is payable for any event, is Loch Logan Island and Kingspark Rose Garden. Referring to the current trends and statistics on how many applications and inquiries the division receive, it is evident that there is a dramatic decline in the popularity and hiring of these venues for outdoor events and that is contributing to the decline in revenue. The Covid pandemic restrictions, including the National Lockdown, also played role in reducing the estimated.

QUESTION 7:

You promised to outline projects detailing sewer and water pipes? Kindly furnish clarity of this concept? Also how far are you with this initiative? Kindly provide evidence of progress made thus far? If no progress or report available kindly provide reasons?

MMM Engineering Services (ES) has appointed consultants (SMEC) to conduct a condition assessment for water and sewer maintenance purposes. This initiative has started in Ward 23, which is Universitas East, Universitas Ridge and Park West.

Once this ward is completed, and depending on the budgetary allocations, the project will be rolled out to the whole of MMM.

QUESTION 8:

You promised to incentivise inwards investment, any progress made thus far? Kindly provide evidence. If not, why not?

Response:

The process of incentivizing both domestic and international investment requires a holistic approach to consider the economic advantages that the city can provide to enterprises and industry. In particular the approach must focus on both financial and non-financial incentives that covers the following:

1. **Financial Incentives:** Use of the municipality's own revenue stream to incentive investments and will involve foregoing future revenue e.g discounted service rates, development contribution
2. **Tax Incentives:** Using available national incentives such as the Urban Development Zone (UDZ),
3. **Regulatory Incentives:** This involves the ease-of-doing business and streamlining of processes to ensure that development applications and regulatory processes are quick and responsive. This amongst others will make provision for fast-tracking of application and innovation around density bonus and parking reduction.
4. **Technical and Business Support Incentives:** This will mainly look investment marketing services and business support activities such sector economic analysis, market studies and business information to assist investor decision making.

Furthermore, the approved 2022/2023 SDBIP include a target of the development of an investment incentive policy for the city which will standard the approach and processes of both financial and non-financial incentives for investment promotion and retention. The key milestones that has been set includes drafting of the policy, internal and external consultation, tabling and approval of the policy framework by Council.

QUESTION 9:

You promised to facilitate the opening of the Zoo. How far you are with this promise, is the Zoo opened? Kindly furnish the progress report. If not, why not?

Response

The Directorate has prepared a checklist of what is needed to reopen the Zoo. See Annexure "B"

A letter was sent to DESTEA and PAZAAP (Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria) for inputs to assist the process of re-opening of the Zoo. PAAZAP is providing support to all African Animal Facilities that would like to evolve in their practices and their infrastructures.

QUESTION 10:

You made promises with regard to the fifth utility? How far is this initiative? Kindly furnish evidence/progress report or portfolio of evidence.

This matter is the product of Strategic Planning session of corporate services held at the CENTLEC Training Centre on the February 21 – 23, 2018. Subsequent to that, a concept paper was authored by the former HoD: Corporate Service Mr. D Nkaiseng, which was then presented to the EMT, Study Group and Section 80 committee.

After that, several efforts were made to submit the draft 5th Utility Concept item to Council but that could not happen as the paper had to be reviewed and be revised on several occasions. The sudden suspension of the former HoD. Corporate Services, as well as instability in the Office of the City Manager (which are well documented) didn't assist the progress as well

The current Intervention team will be following up on the matter.

QUESTION 11:

You made a promise to integrate the call centre into the city fusion center, have you managed to record any success with regard to the finalisation of this initiative? Kindly furnish evidence if at all this was achieved? If not, why not?

A fusion Centre system is not just an automated programme, that can be easily developed internally, as there is no internal capacity. As an expensive programme the acquisition of same will have required procurement, from external Service Providers, with the resultant financial implications on the Municipality.

In keeping with the directives of the Financial Recovery Plan, and by virtue of being the custodian of sound budget management principles, the project had to be shelved until in future, when the financial situation of the municipality has improved.

QUESTION 12:

You promised to hold imbizos, media and virtual platforms to address the culture of non-payment. How many imbizos held so far or any initiative meant to address the culture of non-payment? Kindly provide evidence? If not evidence why not?

Response:

The Office of the Executive Mayors indeed launched disconnection campaigns with his administration and MMCs. Further campaigns, jointly with Office of the Speaker, will be launched in due course.

The office of the Speaker (which is responsible for public participation) has budgeted for those Imbizos and several other Public Participation campaigns in the new financial year which have been included in the annual calendar of the office.

QUESTION 13:

You also promised to address the challenge of staff morale-through the labour forums. Any progress made in this regard? Kindly provide evidence? (Meetings with labour forums/agenda/minutes etc).

Response:

The Acting head of administration has indeed held meetings with Officials. The gist of these meetings, were firstly to allays fears of job insecurities, note challenges experienced by officials and finally obtaining their commitments to carry out their responsibilities in a diligent manner.

QUESTION 14:

You promised to maximise collection of refuse removal? Kindly report any progress in this regard. If no progress, why not?

Response

This current challenge has been communicated through various internal channels as well as to DA Councillors on various platforms as well as in personal discussions.

The current fleet status in the Department has been communicated to the CFO to provide support to the Waste Management section.

The following has been proposed:

- Urgent utilisations of external service providers to support the Department to provide a buffer to maintain and fix current fleet. This however has also its challenges as workers are boycotting the utilisation thereof as Councillor is aware.
- The current financial situation and the non-payment of service providers is putting additional pressure on the service. The utilisation of service providers can form a buffer to the Metro for the interim to fix current fleet and stabilise service to communities.

Internal Intervention proposed:

- Request urgent intervention from National Government / National Treasury for yellow fleet and Waste related Fleet.
- Replacement strategy are under discussion and will be developed.
- o To be considered in adjustment budget.

Meeting has been confirmed with the office of the CFO on the 20th June 2022.

QUESTION 15:

You also touched-based on employer and employee relations. How far are you with this initiative? Kindly furnish evidence if any and reasons in case nothing done.

The municipality after the local government elections started building best practices in dispute prevention and resolution by reviving already dead Local Labour Forum and its sub committees.

The foundations of Social Dialogue, stakeholder recognition with clear engagement framework was re-established and now the LLF has met and for the first time the meeting concluded its agenda.

The LLF Sub-committee on Workplace and Service Restructuring has also met and engaged on the Macro structure and Public Office Bearers structure.

The National Cogta team was also activated to train all LLF members on the new staff regulations take came into effect in July 2022.

QUESTION 16:

You also promised to appoint service providers in key critical areas such as waste management, grass cutting, lawn mowing. Kindly provide proof of purchase/adverts/RFQ? If no progress made yet kindly explain why not?

Response

No service providers are appointed for lawn mowing yet because the item is still at the Bid Adjudication Committee. The Call for Bid for the mowing of grass in the entire MMM area – BID 630: 2021/2022 was advertised in the BID Bulletin, number 162 and the closing date was 27 September 2021. The Bid is currently on the Bid Adjudication Committee's agenda as per the Bid Status report from SCM dated 6 June 2022.

QUESTION 17:

You promised to introduce revenue enhancement activities/initiatives? This involved collecting from the main debtors. Who are the main debtors? How far are you with this plan? Kindly furnish evidence? If nothing made with regard to this plan why not?

Response

On Thursday, 10 March 2022, the former Mangaung Metro's Acting City Manager, Mzingisi Nkungwana launched the city's radical revenue collection programme, which was aimed at collecting debt owed to the City from defaulting customers.

Main debtors are government buildings and businesses, and finally residents.

All the government buildings and businesses that were disconnected would only be reconnected once a 50% payment has been made towards their outstanding debt.

QUESTION 18:

You promised debt incentive scheme in Council? Did this materialise? If not, why not? If you did Sir kindly furnish evidence?

Debt incentive scheme cannot be developed in isolation without considering a hosts of all other Council policies and By-Laws operating, and aligning same with other policies. Once satisfactory progress has been done in reconciling same with all affected existing policies, progress will be reported accordingly in Council.

QUESTION 19:

You promised the revitalisation of sports facilities. How far are you with this initiative? Which sports facilities have you managed to revitalise?

Sport facility revitalization necessitates a capital budget. The budget for those projects must first be approved by the council. The budget will be available in the fiscal year 2022/23. The user department will begin the procurement process (bid adjudication, evaluation, and so on) and continue until the service provider is appointed to revitalize sport facilities.

Public sports facilities have played a critical role in promoting physical activity, sport tourism, and sports participation. As a result, significant efforts are being made to improve the image of sports and to improve the service quality of public sports facilities.

Sport facility revitalization is a strategy with an aspiration of transforming Mangaung into a "Mecca Sport City" of SA.

QUESTION 19:

You promised to source expertise to support your office with economic development initiatives? How far are you with this activity? Kindly furnish progress report or evidence.

Response:

The municipality is currently busy with a review of the organisational structure to develop a fit-for-purpose organogram. A parallel process that has ensued is to identify and subsequently fill critical positions across the organisation. The sourcing of expertise will also include the external stakeholder collaboration especially diverse industry leaders, industry organized formations and local academia to source inputs, advisory and knowledge of creating and facilitating an enabling environment for investment.

QUESTION 20:

You promised to enhance southern fills site operations-through your partnership with the department of Environmental affairs. Kindly furnish the memo or agreement .Except this public- public-partnership mentioned above with Environmental affairs, did you on behalf of the city enter in any partnerships? Public-Private-Partnerships as well? Kindly provide evidence? If not, why not?

1. Southern Landfill Site – DFFE Intervention.

1. Current progress:

- Law enforcement has been deployed to the Southern site as from 2nd June 2022
- Continuous monitoring and cleaning commenced as from 2nd June 2022
- Landfill Management plan to be developed for the Northern and Southern site as per EMT action plan.
- Allocation of dedicated oversight resources will commence on 20th June 2022
 - Daniel Mosia – Southern Site
 - Alda van Rooyen – Northern Site

2. The following matters are in process of finalization:

- Site evaluation conducted and concluded.
- Risk assessment was concluded – will be provided to AHOD on Monday, 20th June 2022
- Security (SIDAS security) appointment concluded between SP and SIDAS.
- Current challenges relating to provision of plant has been resolved.
 - Contracts are in process of finalisation
 - Legal process in final stages
- Project plan in line with deliverables will be finalised with MMM on Monday, 20th June 2022
- Expected to commencement – 20th June 2022
- Signage board procured and will be erected by the 23rd July 2022
- All plans according to Contract condition – Project execution plan will be submitted by Saturday 18th June 2022, for signoff by all parties by Monday, 20th June 2022
- Weekly reports in standardise format to be provided on standard agreed templated between the SP and MMM / DFFE and will be provided to stipulated Departments as per requirements in the contract.
 - POE evidence based – before and after
- Key contacts will be provided by the SP to the AHOD to ensure clear communication channels and reporting lines.
- Project steering Committee for oversight need to be established between all parties by the end of June 2022.

QUESTION 21:

You promised to expedite the appointment of the City Manager, is there any progress registered in this promise? Any reports or evidence?

Response:

Earnest efforts had indeed been made thus far (two to be exact) at recruitment for the vacant post of CM. The initial one being the advert that came out with the City Press issue of December 09, 2021, together with the erratum that came out on the same newspaper medium being the City Press issue of January 16, 2022, which also had the effect of extending the closing date to January 24, 2022

The second advertisement was made through the same newspaper medium, City Press issue of April 10, 2022. It must be acknowledged that FS Cogta again advised the City to issue an erratum essentially extending the closing date from April 29, 2022, to May 06, 2022.

It is conceded that the recruitment, selection and appointment process vest with Council but delegated to the Executive Mayor. It should also be appreciated that Leadership instability at Executive Management Team (EMT) level of the City, unwittingly had the effect of undermining the expert technical support the Executive needed through the process and to this end, the Interim EMT has already prepared a Council Item for the next ordinary Council meeting titled the "PROPOSED RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT PLAN FOR SENIOR MANAGERS IN MMM IN TERMS OF SECTION 82 (a) OF THE MUNICIPAL STRUCTURES ACT 117 OF 1998 AND SECTION 56 OF THE MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT NO. 32 OF 2000" with clear turnaround times.

QUESTION 22:

You also promised to finalise Moshoeshoe road. How far are you with this plan? Did you achieve your mission? If yes kindly furnish evidence. If not, why not?

Progress on Moshoeshoe road was delayed by the following:

1. Project disruptions/stoppages by Business Forums,
2. Disgruntled contractors who tried to stop the project through court interdict,
3. Community Unrests/Mangaung Shutdown
4. Covid19 National Lockdown and restrictions thereof

All of the above led to contractors frustration and ultimately disputes with Project Management.

Intervention and efforts taken by the City to deal with the above are as follows:

1. Numerous meetings with concerned groups/business forums to address their concerns –
2. Mangaung approached High Court to interdict those disrupting construction projects – that did not help as SAPS could not enforce the interdict.

3. Mangaung approached high Court to prevent the interdict by disgruntled contractor – Court ruled in favor of Mangaung

Routes identified to implement the Bus Service, is Phase 1c-tHoffman Square to UFS and Brandwag. Bus operations is planned to be launched launch in October 2022. The number of buses procured to date is ten (10).

The Minister of Roads and Transport, hon Fikile Mbalula visited the Municipality, recently to check on progress of the project. The planned launch of the progress in October, was given the thumbs up by the Minister.

QUESTION 23:

You promised to explore opportunities in the green economy? How far are you with this idea? Any progress? Kindly furnish evidence? If not, why not?

The Free State Green Economy Policy was developed in 2014. MMM subsequently developed its Green Economy Strategy in 2015. MMM, like all other spheres of government, thorough the strategy, is expected to prioritize a number of functions that form an integral part of development within the confines of the green economy, namely:

- Waste Management (transportation, sorting, recycling and land filling);
- Water and Wastewater Management (reticulation, treatment, use);
- Energy (electricity generation in some municipalities, distribution or supply);
- Local Economic Development (LED4)

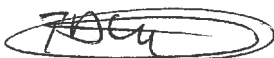
In conclusion, MMM, like all other spheres of government, need to commit to supporting the establishment and sustenance of Green Economy Programmes. These should be integrated into IDPs and translated into Local Economic Development (LED) strategies and implementation plans.

QUESTION 24:

You made promises about the electrification of Section 3 in Botshabelo. How far are you with this plan? Kindly provide evidence of progress made?

Consultations and engagements with CENTLEC on the matter are ongoing. Once satisfactory progress had been made, the Executive Mayor, will revert to the affected community to provide progress.

Yours faithfully



Tebogo Motlashuping
Acting City Manager

Date : 26/08/2022