



DA GOVERNANCE IN
MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG
MUNICIPALITY

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Motion of No Confidence Tabled by the ANC and EFF

The Democratic Alliance has noted the filing of a Motion of No Confidence in the Mayor of the Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality, Marlene van Staden, by the ANC and EFF, and a Motion of No Confidence in Speaker Dingaane Motshwene and Chief Whip, Hercules Louw by the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

These motions come at a time of the imminent release of a forensic audit investigation preliminary report into financial maladministration over the last two years and the EFF's attempt to stop the bid adjudication of MIG projects.

In addition to this, the municipality is in the process of awarding several tenders to the value of tens of millions of rand. The DA was reliably informed that the motions are allegedly aimed at stopping the release of the forensic investigation and to elect an ANC/EFF coalition of corruption to share in a tender scheme with an eye on raising funds for both party's 2019 election campaigns.

Earlier this month, the ANC and the EFF used their combined majority in council to appoint an inexperienced and unqualified manager for technical services on the eve of the awarding of several tenders in the municipality.

The DA objected to the appointment of this candidate as technical manager in light of an instruction by the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Jerry Ndou that the candidate did not qualify for the position, nor did he have the required work experience to manage a complex infrastructure crisis in a municipality such as Modimolle-Mookgophong.

The DA views these motions as nothing more than a desperate attempt by the ANC and the EFF to cover up corruption and to remove a DA-led administration that is committed to restoring strong financial controls, good governance and speed up service delivery within the municipality.

It is disappointing that the Provincial Chairperson of the EFF, Jossey Buthane and a group of about 30 EFF members stormed the municipal building, demanding a special council meeting be held to remove the entire DA political management team. This kind of behaviour is unwarranted and is not how council matters should be dealt with. It is clear that the ANC-EFF Coalition of Corruption will do their best to protect cadres from accountability and hold the people of Modimolle-Mookgophong ransom by their cheap politicking. The DA wishes to express our full confidence in our Mayor, Marlene van Staden, Speaker Dingaane Motshwene and Chief Whip Hercules Louw. The Speaker is currently applying his mind, guided by the rules of council, in terms of these motions.

Achievements by the Democratic Alliance

The DA led a public process whereby a new name was chosen for the Municipality this includes a new logo, a mission and a vision. The following aspects are but a few of the things the DA-led Government in Modimolle-Mookgophong has achieved since we came into power in 2016:

Forensic Investigation

Mayor Marlene van Staden and the DA team fought tooth and nail for nearly two years to have a forensic investigation conducted in the municipality. During this difficult period, we never wavered in our commitment to the residents in municipality and after a massive struggle National Treasury sent a forensic team to investigate the municipality's finances (with the buy in from all councillors). The Provincial Government then finally proceeded to second a Municipal Manager in the Municipality as part of an assistance under section 139 of the Constitution. We are eagerly awaiting the report and a tentative meeting has been set up with National Treasury in Pretoria on 28 November 2018.

Traffic Office

The DA councillors applied a lot of pressure which eventually lead to an investigation at the Mookgophong Traffic and Licensing Office, following allegations that licences were being issued in contravention of the *Road Traffic Act*. An investigation was launched in October 2017 and was conducted by the Anti-fraud and Corruption Unit of the Polokwane Department of Transport. One implicated official was arrested, thereafter the municipality instituted disciplinary proceedings, another one resigned.

During the investigation the Mookgophong Traffic and License Office burned down after a suspected arson attack. To ensure continued service delivery, the local DA, with the help of members of the community, decided to tackle to project of re-equipping the facility.

Given the Municipality's financial difficulties, the DA and the community took charge to ensure that traffic and licensing services can once again be delivered to the residents of Mookgophong. The Municipality's head of protection services, Arrie Opperman, and DA Councillor Hercules Louw oversaw the installation of two security doors, burglar bars between the two offices and wall plugs for the computers. In addition, provision has been made for money drawers, cabinets, a safe, a photocopying machine and partitions for the cashiers. Five extra cameras and an alarm system have also been installed. This office is fully functional now and the only office available to the residents.

Street Lights

In October 2018 more than 900 new light bulbs were ordered, and the municipality's electricians replaced these street lamps in Modimolle, Mookgophong and Phagameng. In addition, 200 new lights fittings were also delivered for the repairs to be made.

At IDP ward meetings one of the concerns consistently raised by communities was that large parts of their neighbourhoods were completely dark at night. The Mayor immediately identified the repair of street lights as an urgent priority, as dark areas are a perfect environment for crime to flourish.

Clean Up Campaign

On the 5th of September the Mayor led a massive clean-up operation in the towns of Vaalwater and Lesideng, involving municipal workers and the local community. This campaign showed how a community can stand together and clean up their streets. This will assist with tourism and investment in these areas. A video of the clean-up can be accessed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Welgevonden.org/videos/2196461197318633/UzpfSTewMDAwMDgyMzg5Njc2MzoxODE3NTM5MDYxNjE2ODcz/?q=vaalwater%20clean-up>

Jobs

Under the DA's leadership a Tourism Association was started for the newly formed municipality to unlock the region's amazing potential. In 2017 the Mayor held a workshop for local contractors to demonstrate the correct procedure to tender for municipal contracts. Annually the Mayor does a Gr 12 encouragement programme before the final exam. She also offers career guidance and motivational talks to Grade 9 learners in the municipality.

A new and fair employment policy was passed and implemented by the Council. This meant the employment for CWP, EPWP or for any other contract was taken out of the hands of the corrupt ANC Ward councillors and given to the DA Chief Whip and party whips together so that for the first time ever the process became transparent and fair. The municipality normally use "Sobuku-buku". The DA aims to create an enabling environment in which business and entrepreneurship can flourish.

Financial Recovery Plan

The ANC left the finances in the Municipality in tatters and therefore we had to approach the courts for assistance. Two court orders have been granted in terms of Section 152 of the Municipal Finance Management Act.- These orders grant a stay period of 90 days against any legal proceedings. This

ensured that despite the municipality's large historic debt to Eskom, there have been no scheduled electricity interruptions at the municipality because of non-payment.

With the help of the Provincial Government the municipality created a Financial Recovery Plan which is aimed at improving the municipality's finances, which in turn will lead to increased service delivery. The plan went out for public participation, was approved by the Provincial Government and will now be implemented.

We also managed to arrange for the employment a permanent official from the National Department of Treasury, Mervin Reddy, as part of their Municipal Finance Improvement Programme. This took place because of regular communication with Jan Hatting at National Treasury. We have also requested MISA investigations on all Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) projects. These investigations have been completed and The Mayor has requested a copy of the report from MEC Ndou. The DA would like to make sure that infrastructure money was prudently spent to the advantage of the community and not just to enrich contractors.

Good Governance

We showed residents of the Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality what good governance can be like. This is governance where councillors know that the needs of the community are put first. We have seen that the ANC and EFF only care about self-enrichment and will not prioritise the needs of the community.

Communication

We managed to significantly improve communication between the Municipality and our residents. We pride ourselves in being a responsive government. The Mayor launched her own Mayoral Facebook page and posts daily day to update the community on happenings in the community. Some of these posts receives as many as 15 000 views. The Office of the Speaker also managed to setup Whatsapp groups for all 14 our wards where regular communication from the municipality is passed to ward committee members so that they can also pass it on to community members.

The Mayor also made sure that she has a good relationship with members of the community. When disgruntled residents want to hand over memorandums or complaints about certain things, she doesn't shy away from the problems and personally faces these residents. The DA Mayor and her team are always available to hear from the community and continue to try to address any concerns raised by the community. An open-door policy was a completely new thing for residents of this municipality.

Service Delivery

The DA ensured the following:

1. The Lillian Ngoyi bridge was completed after the project was stalled for more than 5 years.
2. The Paving of Mogol Street in Vaalwater, this is the first time ever that a street in the town was paved.
3. We ensured the electrification of 500 houses in Ext 13 Ward 6 Phagameng.
4. Paving of six roads in ward 6 Phagameng
5. Ten broken traffic lights were fixed in the main street of Modimolle
6. In co-operation with SANRAL we managed to re-do the main roads through Vaalwater as well as the road through Mookgophong which included new paint and new signage, traffic lights etc.
7. Two large 3,3 mega litre reservoirs were installed and are now used to give more consistent water supply in the towns of Vaalwater and Alma
8. In 2016, 3 additional boreholes were drilled at Driehekke and a pipeline was installed in a record time to assist with an additional 1, 9 mega litre of water a day into the supply system.
9. A new pressure tower was built at Driehekke to give more pressure, the 6 boreholes at Driehekke pump directly into this pressure tower.
10. The Cleaning of the Mookgophong reservoirs for the first time in 18 years.
11. The Mayor arranged for a donation of R25000 worth of tools and equipment for the technical officials in Vaalwater.
12. Installed free WI-FI at the Alma Municipality Building, Alma Laerskool and the Library in Modimolle.
13. New pump system was implemented at the Welgevonden Dam. This was achieved by installing the pump system on a floating platform in the middle of the dam to make sure that as the water level drop the floating raft van still be moved to the middle of the water source. This invention meant that throughout the whole drought we could always count on a constant water supply from Welgevonden dam.
14. The refurbishment of the sewerage pump station behind Ext 5 in Mookgophong. We also oversaw the completion of an additional pump station in Ext 5 in Mookgophong to relieve the existing sewerage problems that have occurred since 2008.
15. The installation of bulk water and sewerage infrastructure to more than 1000 RDP houses in Mookgophong. The moment the Mayor realised that so many residents lived in RDP with bathrooms and kitchens that they can't use because they were not connected she started writing the MEC of Local Government and lobbied Coghsta to come and resolve the situation. In 2017 Coghsta approved the request and appointed two contractors, T2 Tech and Sizeya to do bulk water and sewerage infrastructure and household connections.

16. In Pomolong 284 RDP houses were without sewerage connections or usable toilets for more than 10 years. These people now have a newly built structure with a toilet and small basin in their yards that have been connected to the main sewer outfall.
17. In conjunction with Provincial Department of Cogesta we started a process of proclaiming all township that were not proclaimed before and now have a township register for the first time, so that we can see which townships have RDP's but no title deeds, which people have stands but no title deeds, which areas have not ever been transferred from the National or Provincial Departments to the municipality that are not been proclaimed at all. This will ensure that we can speed up service delivery to these areas.
18. Three projects were approved after numerous letters to SANRAL in relation to the very dangerous road on the N1 turnoff at Mookgophong to Modimolle. SANRAL has finally approved to upgrade this part of the road.
19. Fixing potholes and cleaning the streets of As Salaam happened for the first time in more than 10 years. This residential area as well as business areas was very neglected.
20. We have led the installation of ten tank stands and 10 000 litre water tanks in townships across the municipality.