

## **Running a municipality is not Rocket Science!**

**By Eleanore Bouw-Spies, DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)**

Ask Umgeni Mayor Chris Pappas...how do you get from 133 households receiving basic services to 3005 households receiving free basic services in 1 year. Paying off a R10, 4 million loan in only 11 months...saving ratepayers R450 000 in interest for the year!

A lack of competence and capacity due to a lack of skills, qualifications and innovation contributes to the failure of governance

Lack of Rule of Law... A Legal system that is unable to provide sanctions for officials and political office bearers that engage in corruption.

Political Instability ....Cadres that don't grasp the horrific impact that their incompetence and criminality have on their fellow human beings, and I believe they don't care. In that aspect of the total disregard for human dignity, is there much of a difference between what is happening to our people now, and what happened to us under Apartheid?

How do you justify a municipality paying an employee that has never reported for duty since their appointment a salary from December 2016 to July 2019? Corrupt officials suspended for 4 years with full pay while sitting at home, with no disciplinary process in place? The position of a Director Corporate Services being vacant for 4 years because a deployment committee of ANC cadres doesn't agree with the appointment recommended?

How do you approve and regularise irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure of over R400 million, taking into account that this irregular expenditure resulted from non-compliance with supply chain processes. Where is the consequence management in this? Where is the oversight from Councillors ...who do these officials account to?

Senior Managers and staff from the Auditor General reportedly being threatened and intimidated by Municipal officials while on site during an Audit. Where have you heard of a Municipality being closed for 5 weeks while under Section 139(5) intervention... what happens to the services to the residents of that Municipality.... this is how broken Local Government under ANC rule is in our country.

For how much longer must the people of this country be drawn into ANC infighting...The battle of "Our crooks are better than your crooks". Deploy capable and competent cadres... you have them amongst you! But it seems being competent in the ANC is a prerequisite for being demoted. Part of mature and responsible leadership is to take unpopular decisions...it's time to get your house in order!