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Date:	15 March 2023
To:	Mantsopa Local Municipality Municipal Manager Mantsopa Local Municipality CFO Mantsopa Local Municipality Community Services Director Mantsopa Local Municipality Chairperson Community Services
From:	Cllr Tania Halse Ward Councillor Mantsopa Local Municipality Free State
SUBJECT:	Outdoor Advertising - Alleged bribery and corruption - Lost revenue - Illegal posters, signs and boards allowed being erected without consequence

Good morning

It is with great concern that I once again raise this very serious matter.

- As is public knowledge, Mantsopa Local Municipality has an extensive Outdoor Advertising Policy that was adopted by the council.
- As is clearly visible, more and more notice boards, signs, beacons, banners, advertising lights, and other advertising paraphernalia are going up on a daily basis without any approval from the council whatsoever
- Most of these advertisements do not follow the guidelines set out in the outdoor advertising policy.

I have been informed of alleged bribery and corruption where members of the public are bargaining with the responsible officials to keep up the illegal unpaid signs. These are very serious allegations, yet very believable when I see the latest report sent to the infrastructure committee from the Town Planning and Building Control division on the list of outdoor advertisements approved and paid for.

This list consists of no more than 10 entries comprising of no more than 30 boards approved in all towns and areas of Mantsopa. It is clear to the naked eye that this is not a true reflection of the situation and one wonders if the town planner and building inspector drive around with their eyes closed.

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It was during a strategic planning session in March 2022, that the DA requested, and not for the first time, that a survey is done of all outdoor advertising and that this survey, inclusive of proof of payment is brought to the council.

Exactly one year later, the meagre report with approximately 30 approved and paid-for boards is brought to our attention. This clearly indicates that this department is

1. Not performing their duties as prescribed
2. Leading to financial losses for the municipality
3. This in itself is in contravention of the MFMA and a serious act of mismanagement.

The DA demands that an investigation is launched into financial misconduct in this department and that performance is measured in relation to the outdoor advertising policy with regard to the existing outdoor advertising visible to the naked eye.

Should this report not be presented to the relevant section 79 committee by the end of April 2023, the DA will be sure to hold the office of the Municipal Manager responsible for financial misconduct in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act and will refer this matter to MPAC through Exco and also write to the Auditor General requesting an investigation in this matter.

Tania Halse

Ward Councillor

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