



Democratic Alliance

eThekwini Municipality

Councillor Sakhile Mngadi

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www.da.org.za

1 September 2023

Public Protector Office
Hillcrest Office Park
175 Lunnon Street
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Dear Public Protector of South Africa,

RE: PARTYGATE – THE NOTED RISE OF FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE IN THE ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY DIRECTED AT HOSTING BANQUETS AND PARTIES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RATEPAYER.

We refer to the above matter and record that the Democratic Alliance has over the past 3 years noted a steep rise in the number of events hosted by the eThekwini Municipality and the increased amounts allocated to such events. It is a concerning trend that prompts us to formally address this matter as contained herein to the office of the Public Protector to refer these arbitrary expenses and request that they be investigated and condemned accordingly.

In terms of the AGs report the eThekwini Municipality was found to be severely lacking in consequence management relating to instances of corruption and poor management exacerbated by political infighting, the lack of political will and the failure to implement corrective rulings by state agencies. These finding, as highlight by the Auditor General's Report of 2022/23 are threatening eThekwini's future financial viability and its ability to deliver basic services to its 3.77 million residents.

In particular, the Auditor General findings that relate to the above-mentioned failures include:

1. The failure of the City to recover the R1.5 billion it had spent irregularly and the continued inability to implement disciplinary or criminal proceedings against staff and managers implicated in financial irregularities by independent investigations.
2. eThekwini had regressed in terms of procurement, contract management and maintenance and repairs, spending only 6.59% of its budget on maintaining assets and 5.14% on capital expenditure.



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3. More than 56% of the water purchased by the City was lost and did not make it to consumers, a large part of which can be attributed to the low maintenance and repair spending by the city.
4. eThekwini had operated its Kingsburgh, Isipingo and Mpumalanga waste-water treatment works without valid operating licences, while the northern waste-water treatment works had not been maintained to prevent it from malfunctioning.
5. eThekwini did not have maintenance plans to inform the actual budget needed to maintain its assets, and thus faced major water and electricity supply challenges due to failing infrastructure.

Considering the above we would like to formally register a complaint and recommend that the office of the Public Protector fully investigate these instances of fruitless and wasteful expenditure and make available a report to the Democratic alliance in eThekwini to that effect in the interests of the residents and ratepayers of the city.

Regards,

Cllr Sakhile Mngadi
Democratic Alliance eThekwini