

## PR Councillor

Your ref: Matter of Public Importance

Our ref: Matter of Public Importance

Date: 14 August 2025

Who deals with this: Cllr Ondela H Kepe

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**The Acting City Manager**

**Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality**

**Gqeberha**

**Subject: Request for Urgent Investigations into the Conduct of the Mayor and Municipal Employees**

Dear Mr. Pillay,

I write to you with deep concern following the events of 5 August 2025, in which municipal employees physically removed the Acting Executive Director (ED) of Electricity and Energy from his office, demanding his removal. This incident is the latest escalation in a series of targeted actions against the Acting ED, who has already faced sustained personal attacks and credible death threats in the course of carrying out his duties.

The cumulative effect of this intimidation, compounded by political interference, is making it nearly impossible for the Electricity and Energy Directorate to function effectively. Of particular concern is the intervention by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Babalwa Lobishe, who, by your own office's records, instructed you to withdraw letters of intention to suspend the employees implicated in the 5 August incident. This, in our view, constitutes blatant political interference in administrative processes.

Accordingly, I formally request that you:

1. **Investigate the Conduct of the Executive Mayor:** Investigate the Mayor's actions in terms of the Code of Conduct for Councillors. Should any contravention be established, the matter must be referred to Council for consideration and, thereafter, to the Rules and Ethics Committee for further handling.
2. **Investigate the Conduct of the Employees Involved:** Initiate an internal investigation into the conduct of the municipal employees involved in the physical removal of the Acting ED, with appropriate disciplinary action taken where warranted.
3. **Review and Present SOP for Threats Against Officials:** Present to Council an updated Standard Operating Procedure for responding to threats against municipal officials, which must include timelines, escalation processes, and protective measures, to ensure consistent and decisive handling of future incidents.

4. **Regular Progress Reporting:** Commit to providing written progress reports to Council at predetermined intervals until these matters are fully resolved.

While it is important to hear and consider the concerns of municipal employees, it is wholly unacceptable to allow intimidation, threats, and physical confrontation against senior officials. The precedent currently being set, that such actions can occur without consequence, undermines the rule of law, erodes institutional stability, and damages the Municipality's standing as a professional and credible employer.

The people of Nelson Mandela Bay deserve an administration that is principled, professional, and willing to uphold due process without fear or favour. I urge you to act decisively in this matter, both to protect the integrity of the institution and to safeguard the officials who serve it.

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr Ondela Kepe**  
**DA Spokesperson: Electricity & Energy**  
**Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality**