

MEDIA STATEMENT

MAYOR ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE

Attention: News Editors / Journalists / Press Members

Date: 21 June 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Executive Mayor of Makana Local Municipality Councillor Yandiswa Vara announced changes to her Mayoral Committee yesterday.

Speaking during a Special Council Meeting on 20 June 2023, the Executive Mayor said no new appointments would be made in the Mayoral committee. The Mayoral Committee was just rearranged according to people's strengths.

The new changes to the Mayoral Committee are as follows:

- Councillor Ramie Xonxa remains the Portfolio Chairperson of the Corporate and Shared Services.
- Councillor Mzobanzi Nkwentsha moves from Local Economic Development and Planning to Chair Public Safety and Social services.
- Councillor Thandolwethu Vayo moves to Engineering and Infrastructure Services Portfolio Chairperson from Public Safety and Community Services.
- Councillor Gcobisa Mene moves from Engineering and Infrastructural Services to head the Finance Portfolio Committee.
- Councillor Andile Hoyi moves from Finance to lead the Local Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Committee.

Vote of no confidence against the Executive Mayor defeated.

A vote of no confidence tabled by Democratic Alliance leader Councillor Luvuyo Sizani against the Executive Mayor was defeated by a majority vote during the Council Meeting. Councillor Sizani said the motion of no confidence in the Executive Mayor emanated from the recent water crisis. Councillor Sizani said the Executive Mayor did not take the members of the public into confidence regarding interventions to deal with the crisis adding that the Executive Mayor wasn't present or visible during the crisis.

Makana Municipality shall strive to ensure sustainable, affordable, equitable and quality services in a just, friendly secure and healthy environment, which promotes social and economic growth for all.

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In response to this, Councillor Andile Hoyi rose to reject the motion indicating that the motion was just an opportunistic move by the DA, adding that it lacked substance. Councillor Hoyi told Council that the recent Stakeholder Engagement session was a typical example of interaction with the public regarding these issues and various other engagements. "I think this is just an opportunistic move by the opposition."

The motion was eventually rejected by a majority vote as follows:

- For the motion: 4
- Against the motion: 13
- Abstained: 6

Commenting on the process Council Speaker, Councillor Mabhuti Matyumza encouraged Councillors to table motions using relevant legislation. "We must bring motions and deal with them in a transparent manner, we must not be seen to be hiding anything."

Director suspended.

The Director of Engineering and Infrastructural Services, Ms Asanda Gidana has been suspended following allegations of misconduct. There is an ongoing investigation to test the allegations whereafter Council will make a decision on what course of action to take. In the meantime, she has been suspended for a period of not more than three months.

Other developments discussed in the meeting include the following:

- The Executive said she was pleased to inform Council that consultants had been appointed for Phase 2 of the Nacame Street upgrade and the rehabilitation of Makana Way.
- The Executive Mayor said the municipality is also in the process of appointing a consultant for the upgrade of the taxi route (M Street).
- The Municipality is engaging the Department of Water and Sanitation regarding sanitation issues and the discussions are positive.
- The Project Management Unit & Supply Chain Unit need attention. The PMU currently has no manager or senior technician, which is a serious problem. However, engagements are taking place at provincial level, District level as well as at local government level with Ndlambe Local Municipality to address the situation. The Municipal Manager insisted that there is a serious need to fast-track the employment of Manager PMU. In the meantime, the municipality has requested Ndlambe Municipality to second an official to act in the PMU.
- The vacancy of the Chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) was declared vacant following the resignation of Chairperson Councillor Vuyani Jezi due to ill health. Councillor Jezi remains a member of MPAC and a ward councillor. Councillors wished Councillor Jezi a speedy recovery. The Council Speaker agreed to meet with the whips of the various political parties to elect an interim chairperson, due to the importance of the position.

ENDS

Issued by the Makana Municipality Communications Office.

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