

MEDIA RELEASE PSA shocked by waste of taxpayers' money at Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about reports that the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality has appointed a second security company, using bouncers, to stop ongoing disruptions at the Municipality. The cost of R700 000 comes whilst already paying another security company R1 million per month for a similar service.

The recent spate of attacks and disruptions by angry residents and service providers was attributed to the Municipality's failure to pay service providers. Surprisingly, instead of the Municipality settling these unpaid invoices, it spent more money on appointing a security company. The Municipality has pleaded poverty as the reason for failing to pay service providers and addressing the service-delivery backlog in the Mopani District.

The PSA pointed out that the Municipality could have opted to use available resources such as the South African Police Service or Traffic Officers that do not come at a cost to a "poor municipality". The appointment of a second security company in the same Municipality is not justified, does not make financial sense, and should not have been approved at any level as it is not in accordance with the *Municipal Finance Management Act*. The Union indicated that this action warrants an investigation as it is also alleged that the company was appointed without the approval of Municipal Council. There is no Council resolution for such appointment, which renders the appointment irregular.

Wasteful and irregular expenditure seems to be the order of the day for municipalities in Limpopo without consequence management. Despite the Office of the Auditor General on various occasions pointing out problems of wasting money by the Limpopo Municipalities, it does not appear that the behaviour is changing. The Office of the Premier seems to have adopted the stance of just watching as money budgeted to improve service delivery to the people in Limpopo is squandered.

The PSA further pointed out that the silence of the Minister of COGHSTA is worrisome as the municipal effectiveness is at the heart of service delivery in South Africa that will reduce public demonstrations by angry protesters, prevent damage to infrastructure and restore the image of the country.

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