

Issued by Kannaland Municipality

We take note of the premature media statement issued by the DA Constituency Head Ms Eleanor Bouw Spies.

Her statement is unfortunate and does not address the issues at hand. It however is obvious that where the DA is not part of a coalition pact it then resorts to name calling, labelling and insults in order to score political points.

As a focused municipality we will not enter into a media mudslinging contest as we are all aware of the period of coalition between the DA and the ANC. Our focus is on service delivery and on exposing the rot that has put Kannaland in a difficult financial position.

Today council resolved to implement the section 154 Implementation plan with minor adjustments. Council also resolved to request from the Provincial government departments financial clarity towards the financing of this section 154 implementation plan. As we are indeed aware that any plan of this nature will need to be financed.

It is noted that council never rejected the section 154 implementation plan and media statements to the contrary is completely false and only intended to score political points. Regular correspondence between our offices and the provincial department is evidence of this.

The Kannaland Council also noted the section 106 investigation report that was issued by the Department of Local Government. We concur that the purpose of such an investigation is “to obtain the necessary facts so that the source of the problem can be identified, with a view to remedying the weakness in the system.” The minister has received such a report on the 7th December 2022 and sent it to us on the 13th December 2022, informing us that the report has also been forwarded to the Hawks and the NPA. This has been done without giving the municipality an opportunity to respond to the report or the allegations informing the investigation.

The report is also referring to an Annexure C which the council have not seen. The recommendations of the report are also referring to SAPS cases to be

opened. This creates uncertainty as there has already been referrals made to the law enforcement authorities. It appears that the province has implemented its own recommendations. We will continue to engage the minister on the report as we all need to get to the bottom of this.

We will continue to address any issue of irregularity or perceived irregularities in the municipality.

It is council's intention to speed up the service delivery issues where we are lacking and not get side-tracked by petty political issues. Our progress has been slow but steady.

The recent appointments of the municipal manager and a permanent chief financial officer is evidence of our seriousness to deliver services to the people of Kannaland. These appointments also address the Auditor General findings as well as a taking a direction towards stabilising the municipality's finances.

We understand that Kannaland went through a period of political instability of which the DA is aware and was part of the political set up in Kannaland.

It is now time to take hands and put all of this uncertainty and instability behind us so that the people of Kannaland can benefit through programs of upliftment. We really hope that the implementation of the section 154 plan would be properly funded and that we are able to move forward.

As a municipality we would welcome any positive input or assistance from any governmental program as long as the people of Kannaland is the beneficiaries of those programs and as long as it is not used to create instability and division.

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18 April 2023