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Verwysing: 17/10/R
Reference:

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Datum: 2 March 2016
Date:

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

My executive team and I were invited to attend yet another session of the Standing Committee on Local Government today, and yet again under false pretences.

DA Chair Masizole Mnqasela, MPP, originally called for my presence on the pretext of addressing the Eskom account variance. Yet, having invited me, Mnqasela insulted me by venting his bias at a media conference in anticipation of the meeting.

Mnqasela used the eventual meeting to attack on my government and to threaten administration, based mostly, on incomplete data and misinformation about the nature and scope of Kannaland's good faith negotiations with Eskom.

In some futile attempt to hide his exposure in the harsh light of the clarion response of the Western Cape minister of local government – "There are no talks of placing the municipality under administration. It is not even on the agenda..." – Mnqasela again called Kannaland to his committee, this time under the pretence of a grave presence by the national ministers of finance and cooperative government. The ministers did not make an appearance and Mnqasela, probably in another vain attempt at face-saving, made heavy weather of the ministerial snub.

Kannaland was present today in Mnqasela's committee. And Kannaland was clearly set up!

This umpteenth summons was without an opportunity to reply to disinformation and amounts to fruitless and wasteful expenditure while we were being lectured on fiscal prudence! The chair and the committee is wasting money and my executive time. I have a government to run and can ill afford to have my focus scrambled.

Kannaland stands alone yet again. And yet again, Kannaland will prevail. Kannaland will solve the Eskom account variance, despite the onrush.

I am especially disappointed and concerned that a senior member of my government coalition, Mr Richard Dyantyi, is fuelling this onslaught against my government.

This time it was all about Kannaland's considered long term loan. The committee wanted to force its legal opinion, and was clearly taken aback when it was indicated that the loan was derailed late on Friday, after all parties were attuned to the granting until Friday morning. This smacks of mischievous intervention.

Mnqasela and his committee should be ashamed!

While those mandated to assist local governments rally against Kannaland, my government is finding and implementing solutions despite the political bias and strategic myopia of supposed servants of our constitutional democracy.

Kannaland's progressive attempts to establish stable cash flow has been thwarted by parties not allowed on a level playing field. But then the field Kannaland is forced to use has never been level.

Kannaland is a successful local government by bootstrapping and simple resoluteness and despite the undermining efforts of DA politicians harassing Kannaland overtly by disinformation and covertly by proxy of functionaries arrogating to "oversee" and enable municipal progress.

The negative remarks and the rogue campaign of the chair of the standing committee is grossly at odds with Kannaland's auditable record of fiscal prudence and I demand that the Chair withdraws his biased statements and apologises publically to me and to Kannaland for bringing my government in disrepute. The Chair, by his very office, should be known to aid and assist Kannaland at every possible turn, not subvert a legitimate government!

The sole, sapping outcome of Mnqasela's baseless attacks on Kannaland, is a potentially compromised relationship with Kannaland Business, a matter which the municipal manager has nurtured over time, and with the Kannaland community, especially the poor, which my government and I nourish and cherish.

I am calling for support, not subversion. Support, by responsible unbiased politicians, justified by Kannaland's successes as much as by Kannaland's capacity challenges and large indigent register, may spawn some well-deserved assistance from government spheres and departments and committees and officials, currently conspicuous in absence.

Kannaland's debtor management regime is rapidly maturing into cash flow stability: More control over a growing debtors book for timely and complete recovery; supported by command over even through prepaid sales, and an accurate indigence register correctly funded by national government, run to a strict revenue enhancement strategy designed and funded by the DBSA; and regulated without interference by peer governments.

Just imagine the heights Kannaland will attain with increased support justified by recorded success.

I call on the minister to guide the chair in understanding his mandate and executing his mandate without prejudice.

Issued by the:

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR
JEFFREY DONSON**