

20 December 2018

To: The Amahlathi Local Municipality Accounting Officer and Municipal Council

ARA Communique 1: Request to Reinstate Service Delivery

The Amahlathi Residence Association (ARA) represent as much as 500 households, businesses and Farmers in the greater Amahlathi area. On 17 October 2018, a protest action escalated to the point that various buildings and infrastructure were damaged and destroyed. From that date up to the present there was very little service delivery if any in area, with key services like the traffic department, refuse removal, the accounts department, address verification services and rates clearance services, not functioning at all. The situation has plummeted a municipality that was already in financial distress into a situation where we believe it would be difficult if not impossible to recover from, unless very radical reforms are implemented. The protest action did not just negatively impact the town's economy with many days of lost productivity, but also impacted the operations of the schools and the exams, potentially causing irreparable damage to both the towns economy, as well as the development of our youth.

On 18 December 2018 a delegation from the ARA hosted a contingent from the Municipal Management to ascertain what the strategy of restoring service delivery would be. From the meeting it became apparent that the municipality is unable to render any services until the protest action has been called off. The ARA subsequently resolved the only structure that can remedy the situation is the Municipal Council. A meeting was subsequently arranged with the Speaker and an Exco member on 19 December 2018. At the meeting the Speaker committed on behalf of the Municipal Council, that a council meeting will be called before 31 December 2018, where they will attempt to resolve the situation.

It is the position of the ARA that nobody other than the Municipal Council, who are the elected representatives of the people of Amahlathi Local Municipality, could be held accountable for the protest action in the first place, as well as the delay in the protest action being called off.

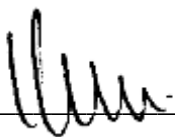
As the ARA we want to make our expectations clear to the Municipal Council, as well as the Municipal Management:

1. The municipality need to urgently clean up the town, and rehabilitate the refuse disposal site, which is currently a major environmental disaster contaminating the water system that feeds the City of East London as well the water supply of the farms and communities in-between.
2. The municipality need to issue all residents with up to date account statements, and institute legal action against any person in arrears for more than 90 days. In the event where there is disputes, it is recommended an independent arbitrator be appointed to rule on all disputes.
3. In terms of electrical supply, the municipality must confirm there is no outstanding payments to Eskom and at the same time start a process of auditing all electrical meters and prepaid meters, to ensure there is no electricity theft. In the case of detecting theft criminal cases must be opened against perpetrators and civil proceeding be instituted to recover cost of electricity stolen.
4. All other services, including traffic and community services, must be restored as soon as possible, with specific dates, names and contact details of responsible officials to be provided, as well as details of the locations where these services will be offered.

In terms of the time frames to resolve the above, we would appreciate a written commitment in the form of a public notice indicating by when the various expectations will be addressed, by not later than 15 January 2019.

Should you wish to communicate directly with the ARA you can forward any correspondence to Donald Kemp who will serve as the liaison for the purposes communication at address c/o Bose Tyres No 20, Long Street, Stutterheim, PO Box 256, 4930 (Mobile number: 073 427 2119 & e-mail: donald@barkaybirds.co.za).

Yours Sincerely



Chair Person of the ARA