

ANC will not vote out the Madibeng mayor

- Pretoria News
- 18 May 2018
- BALDWIN NDABA

DESPITE growing allegations of corruption and maladministration in Madibeng Local Municipality in Brits under ANC mayor Jostina Mothibe, her party has described a motion of no confidence against her as a "storm in a teacup".

Douglas Maimane, ANC Madibeng co-ordinator and MMC for economic development, tourism and agriculture, vowed the motion would not "see the light of the day".

The motion was tabled by the DA two weeks ago and was expected to be debated during a full council meeting on May 28.

The municipality also came under fire last month from the SA Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu), which accused it of leasing 50 vehicles, costing R17 million a month.

According to Samwu, the contract was for a period of three years and it was expected it would cost R620m.

In an earlier statement, the union's provincial secretary Vincent Diphoko said: "Suspiciously, under the agreement, the municipality will be responsible for servicing and maintenance of the fleet and thus bringing the total cost to be incurred by the municipality to over R1 billion."

Diphoko said that at a cost of R17m the municipality was able to procure 50 vehicles a month for a fleet of 1 800 vehicles within three years.

Shop stewards, who led workers on a protest march to the municipal building on April 13, have since been placed on suspension.

Yesterday, the DA and the EFF in Madibeng confirmed that they related all these alleged acts of corruption to the inter-ministerial committee led by Minister in the Presidency Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, which was on a fact-finding mission yesterday.

Mothibe and her councillors were still locked in the meeting with Dlamini Zuma's delegation last night.

EFF spokesperson Stan Komape said his party would support the DA's motion but would also submit an additional motion of no confidence against Speaker Tebogo Ntshabele.

"We told the committee everything about the acts of corruption and maladministration in the municipality. The corruption dates back to 2011, when Mothibe was elected mayor."

DA councillor Theo Modiha, who tabled the motion, said his party wanted her removal, claiming that the "cash-strapped" municipality had also failed to maintain the sewerage system for more than a year.

"The municipality's failure to pay Rand Water resulted in the company threatening to restrict the supply to residents. An emergency payment prevented this at the eleventh hour."

He said the water infrastructure plant was in the process of an upgrade by Magalies Water, but it was likely to exceed its July 2018 deadline, which, he said, would affect the delivery of water to residents.

"Madibeng has been experiencing water and sanitation challenges since being placed under section 139 (1) b of administration. The bold move did not better the lives of residents either. We are still witnessing water provision through tankers," Modiha said.

But the ANC appear to be unfazed. "The motion of no confidence is a storm in a teacup. It will not see the light of day. The motion will appear on the council's agenda but the ANC will vote against it," said Maimane.