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U / YOUR:

09 MARCH 2017

THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER
GREATER TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY
TZANEEN

BY HAND

RE: THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CRISIS: TZANEEN

We refer to the above and more particularly the attempts of civil society- and action groups to bring to the attention of the Greater Municipality of Tzaneen, the electricity supply crises experienced by the Tzaneen Community.

Take notice that we specifically act on instruction from the Letaba Brandwag, a voluntary organisation, primarily consisting of residents located along the Ledzee electricity supply line (herein referred to as the Ledzee Line).

Though our clients are residents, businesspersons and farmers, who form part of the greater civil society action groups, our clients reserve the right to engage with yourself as a separate legal entity and they are currently of the opinion that the Tzaneen Greater Municipality are already in breach of their promises, undertakings and commitments, and has once again failed in their legislative duties and legal obligation towards the community in general and our clients in particular.

MELD ASSEBLIEF ONS VERWYSING / KINDLY QUOTE OUR REFERENCE

STEPHANUS JANSE VAN RENSBURG B.Iur, LL.B (PU vir CHO)
Assisted by LOUIS DANIEL PIERRE-JACQUES PIENAAR LL.B (UP)

All factors taken into account, it is our instructions that the time for discussion and negotiation is coming to an end. Our clients demand action and will no longer be pacified with empty words and promises.

Officials must be held accountable for their actions or omissions and the blatant dereliction of their constitutional obligation to ensure a constant, safe and continuous supply of electricity to the rate payers within their area of jurisdiction.

Our clients realise that the list of demands formulated by our clients are challenging and costly, but as stated, our clients are rate payers, employers and consumers whose demands are both reasonable and achievable.

Although not exclusive, the most pressing problems relate to the following:

1. Clearance of problem vegetation

Some of our clients confirmed that their power lines have not been cleared for a period of more the 10 (ten) years. No explanation or excuse can merit this situation. Our demand is that the power lines running along the Ledzee main line, and all its side lines, must be cleared to meet all statutory requirements, within a period of 30 (thirty) days from receipt of this letter.

Based on available information, the community will no longer accept any excuses relating to logistical, organisational or any other factors. The rainy season is also nearing its end, so that the weather should also not be blamed for any further delays.

The cleared vegetation must be disposed of in a safe and environmental friendly manner. Regular feedback regarding the cleaning teams' schedule, progress and delays must be given to our client.

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2. Reporting and monitoring of supply interruptions

Although discussed on several meetings, and many promises made, this still remains an issue. Our clients demand:

2.1. The formulation of a clear, simple and effective procedure to log, execute and provide feedback relating to electricity supply interruptions. Reaction times must be specifically recorded. These fault reporting and repair process must be accessible around the clock and the data logs must be made available to our clients every fortnight.

2.2. The publication of the emergency numbers and reporting procedure on radio, the printed press and social media, must be expedited.

2.3. The appointment of a specific municipal official, with the necessary level of skill, competence and authority to deal with specific complaints, directed to him through a pre-agreed and constantly available communication channel.

2.4. Regular meetings (at least every fortnight) to discuss and give feedback to our clients are to be scheduled.

3. Safety and environmental issues

At the different meetings you have been alerted to the risk of the possible civil and criminal liability the council, council members and officials face, if they fail to comply with their duties or fail to adhere to statutory and regulatory requirements. Our clients, will not hesitate to pursue these avenues if necessary.

4. Maintenance on power line

It is no secret that the Municipality derelicted its duty to properly maintain the power lines itself. The lines itself are at the end of its shelf life and several electricity poles are rotten, broken or failing. In some instances, the poles are

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"hanging" on the line. Full particulars of its location and photographs are available as proof. Our clients demand immediate access to the maintenance schedule for the whole Ledzee line, this includes the service/replacement schedule of all transformers on that line.

Our clients also insist on proper communication and ample pre-warning when and where the electricity supply will be cut to facilitate maintenance.

5. Financial budget

In spite of several requests for information regarding the budget (specifically for the electricity department), no concrete answers was received. Our clients' demand is for specific information to the following:

- 5.1. What was the capital and maintenance budget for the previous financial year for the electricity department?
- 5.2. What is this amount for the current financial year?
- 5.3. Were any funds that were allocated and budgeted for the electricity department re allocated to or spent for other purposes and if so, exactly for what?
- 5.4. A written undertaking by the Council that funds budgeted and/or allocated for the Electrical Department, will not be reallocated to be spent elsewhere.

Specifically referring to other meetings held with community members and under the banner of the "Electricity Forum", you are requested to recognise our clients' interest as a specific interest group, located along the Ledzee line and representing the interest of that specific group. It will therefore not be acceptable to ignore or even incorporate the rights, needs and demands of our clients into that of the wider discussion forum.

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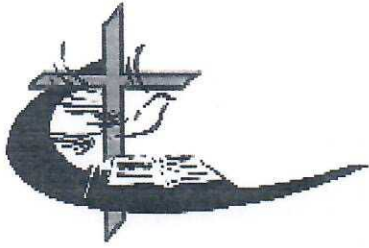
You are kindly requested to acknowledge receipt hereof in writing and your written response to the points raised herein are expected no later than the 31st of March 2017.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHAN VAN RENSBURG ATTORNEYS
stephanproc@mweb.co.za
PER: STEPHAN VAN RENSBURG

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2017/01/25

To: Greater Tzaneen Municipality
Att: Mr. Selemo Monakedi (MM)
Cc: Mr. Neville Ndlala (Head of Communications)
Mr. Maripe Mangena (Mayor GTM) – for your information to keep you up to date

Re: Status of electrical supply in the GTM region

First I would like to thank you for the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th of January 2017 and then the promised “Programme of action for reduction of power outages in the Electrical Engineering Services”.

I will set out the points that I would like to bring under your attention in bullet format, so that you can address it more easily:

- The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th of January 2017 is not a true reflection of the meeting and we would like to add the minutes taken by the representative of Agri Letaba (see attachment).
- In the report “point 2.2” – it is stated that:- **2 x 2-MVA transformers installed (Middlekop and La Cotte Substations).** We can confirm that the Lacotte transformer was installed on the 18th of January 2017, but removed on the 20th of January 2017 to Waterbok. Since then there has been no replacement at Lacotte.
- My other concern with this is that in your report you state that:- **“Purchase and install a 4-MVA transformer at Letsitele area (Waterbok Substation) by 18 February 2017.”** It is my concern that the transformer that was at Lacotte is too small for Waterbok because in your report you state that Waterbok should be a 4 – MVA, and according to your report the one that was installed at La Cotte was a 2 – MVA.
- At Henley two out of the three transformers are faulty, leaving only one to carry the load. This is causing power problems, which is causing harm and damage to machinery, pumps, office equipment and household appliances.

The above issues are ongoing on a daily basis and are totally unacceptable. The problem is that the people are paying for services that are not rendered. With the amount of outages it is impossible to

7/4/2016

run and manage a business successful. The end of the month the line cost must still be paid, electricity bills are paid, insurance payments increase, reaching a point where people are battling to get insurance due to the high claim ratio. This is not on, because the entrepreneur which is the backbone of this local economy, biggest contributor to the municipal's fiscal and biggest employer is been handed the short end of the stick.

We are trying to work with the municipality, to be part of the solution but you are making it very difficult through your actions to stay positive and committed to work through this with you. Please paper makes things look good, but actions speak louder than paper, and we are not seeing lasting actions.

Something else that I want to make use of the opportunity. Mrs. Merle Pochop, an employee of the GTM will be released of her duty at the end of the month to go on pension. We as rate payer feel that we want to ask the GTM to extend a contract to Mrs. Merle Pochop until the electrical problems are solved, because it is our believe that the staff remaining is not adequately trained to take over, and also shows the lack of commitment to assist when we as rate payers come with account problems to the GTM. We have been in contact with Mrs. Merle Pochop, and she did indicate that she would be willing to stay on, if the GTM makes an offer to her.

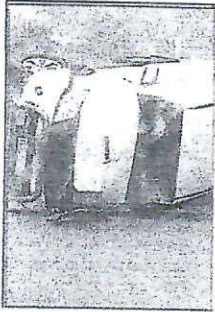
Can you please give us some feedback, if such a possibility could arise to accommodate her, and how the process should be going forward to extend her services with the GTM.

I would like to give you seven days to respond to the matters above, but due to the seriousness of the electrical problems and the ongoing of it, without any lasting solutions on the horizon I have to unfortunately give you only until the end of day tomorrow. By failing to comply with the timeline given to come back to us with a satisfactory answer, we will be left with no other option to take this up with the MEC of Local Government in Limpopo.

Yours truly,

Johan Potgieter
Representative of the ratepayers and community at large.

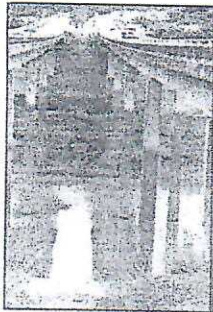
Send via email



LEWENS GEËIS

Talle sterf
gedurende die
feestyd

- page 2



DAMVLAKKE STYG

Goeie reën
bring groot
verligting

- page 3



2016 MATRI UITSLAE

Plaaslike gra
12's presteer
uitstekend

- page 6, 7, 8, 9

Power crisis an economic disaster

Jaryd Macra-jaryd@herald.co.za

A MASSIVE economic disaster with major job losses, business closures, an agricultural melt down with disastrous repercussions are unavoidable if the current electrical situation is not urgently addressed.

This is the crux of statements issued this week by Agri Letaba and the Tzaneen Chamber of Commerce as well as a multitude of letters addressed to the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

Continual power disruptions, untimely and unexplained breakdowns and poor service delivery and maintenance form the focal theme of complaints.

The power outages alone have started a chain reaction of events that could shut down the entire district.

The farming sector has already felt it. With agricultural equipment rendered useless as well as large crop and produce losses, businesses and community members alike are outraged.

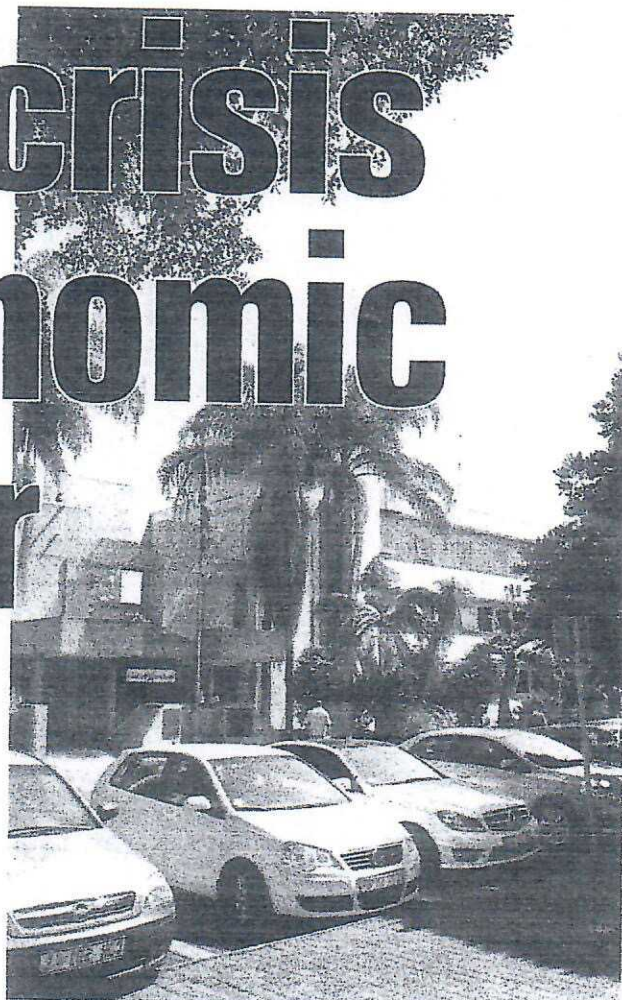
We are facing an enormous wave of job losses.

Spokesperson for the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Neville Ndlala, has on occasion given feedback of particular occurrences in the crisis.

Sometimes the problem is a faulty transformer. Other times it's the effects of heavy rainfall.

But complainants are encouraged to call the GTM call centre... Open 24 hours a day.

They are, however, currently experiencing high call



MUNICIPALITY PRESSED FOR ANSWERS: We now face an impending economic disaster with major job losses, business closures, an agricultural melt down and dire repercussions if the current electrical situation is not urgently addressed.

volumes... so please hold.

Coincidentally, the overwhelming bulk of the GTM's income is paid by electricity bills- specifically from the industrial and agricultural sectors. Some have threatened to stop paying their bills.

But the GTM itself is facing a significant financial beating. After lengthy correspondence with the municipality and several attempts to assist in implementing solutions, the community wants answers.

See page 6 for Agri Letaba's open letter to the GTM.

TOP LEARNER:
was announced
Limpopo. Mabi
Science 99%, Li
90%, Geograph

St Ge

ONCE again, St George's College has just announced its motto "Excellence in Education," by its creditable achievement in the 2016 Grade 12. The school is one of the top three in Limpopo.

WE WISH ALL OUR CLIENTS A PROSPEROUS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Francois
060-997-5235
**TZANGENI-
HOUSE -**
R1 620 000:



Tzaneen faces crisis of monumental proportions

Pieter Vorster, Agri Letaba Chairperson writes an open letter to Greater Tzaneen Municipality
FOR attention: Moswatse Lelope and Benjamin Mathebula
RE: ELECTRICITY CRISIS

The above matter refers.
 Tzaneen is facing a crisis of monumental proportions if something is not done to rectify the failing state of the electricity grid. As it currently stands the GTM is failing in one of its most basic and vital service delivery areas.

Fair warning has been given by organised agriculture and the farming community regarding the unacceptable current electrical supply due to the lack of maintenance, planning and foresight by the municipality. There seems to be no clear plan of action that the municipality is following to rectify the situation despite many offers/suggestions from Agri Letaba and other stakeholders. Agriculture forms a vital part of the local economy, without it the whole area and a large part of the province itself would cease to be economically viable as thousands of jobs would be lost both directly as well as indirectly. Agriculture cannot function without a reliable electricity network.

The discontent among the farmers is reaching boiling levels with many threatening

to simply not pay accounts as well as laying off workers, as they can't afford to pay people while their equipment is non-functional.

Electricity revenue forms the majority of the municipality's billable income. Without this source of income, the GTM will find itself in a financially uncomfortable position.

The time for paying lip service to this problem has come and gone, concrete action needs to be taken immediately to correct what is already a crisis. The budget allocation as well as the current maintenance schedule is woefully inadequate to fix this problem. A working plan needs to be formulated now so that all involved stakeholders know exactly what is being done and how the municipality plan to implement. We have offered our help and guidance many times, and we are more than willing to assist with this problem where we can. Please use your available resources and contacts to avert the crisis that we are all facing together.

Vision 2030 is just a pipedream if we don't fix this crisis now!

LIVE ELECTRICITY: An open electricity cable on a farm over December on one of the farms in the area that was badly affected by power outages. Photo: Supplied.



publiek oë toe...
 Na miljoene rande. Na miljoene beloftes...Dit gaan enige persoon se...d te bowe waarom die GTM nie duidelike antwoorde wil of kan verskaf in die verband nie.

Dit nadat die media woordvoerder van die munisipaliteit in Desember aan Letaba Herald die versekering gegee het, dat Tzaneeners sal kan gaan lyf natmaak.

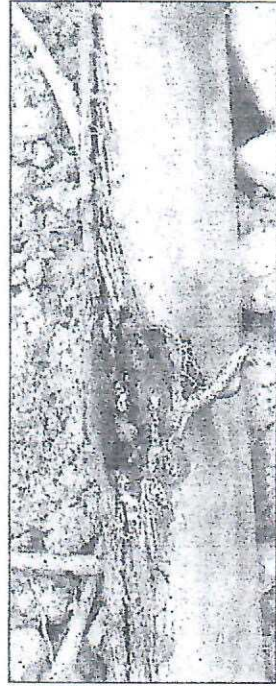
Dit blyk duidelik nie die geval te wees nie. Intussen kan Letaba Herald net saam met inwoners spekulere oor die toedrag van sake, en moet boonop op hoorsê staatmaak.

'n Voëltjie is hoor fluit, dat die swembad glo weer lek. Derduisende liter water is uitgetap en na die lek reggemaak is, midde van 'n droogte, weer vol getap. Nou lek die swembad glo weer. Die GTM het ook, na wat vermeen word in Desember 'n eindjaar funksie vir personeel daar gehou.

Dit laat talle vrae ontstaan.
 Is die swembad dan slegs geskik vir amptenary van die munisipaliteit?

Word die groot inkomste potensiaal nie raak gesien nie? Die komende swemseisoen waar al die skole in ons omgewing die swembad kan 'huur' vir groot swemgala's nie.

Die woordvoerder het ook in die kantoor van LetabaHerald aan een van die joernaliste gese, dat 'n lewensredder aangestel is, wat voorheen as oponthoud vir die opening van die swembad gebruik is.



swembad oop sal wees vir die publiek.
 Maar in dieselfde asem het Ndala ook laat val, dat die volgende probleem, die aanstel van 'n kassiere was, want inkomste wat gereeneer sal word, sal glo nie die salaris van die kassiere kan betaal nie.

(Terloops, dit is glo oor R20 000, en die salaris vir die lewensredder was ge-advreter vir meer as R17 000 p/m)

Wat is dan nou eintlik die probleem?
 Die lek, die lewensredder, die aanstelling van 'n kassiere?

Of moes die swembad liewers uit die staanspoor net toegegooi word, en kon al die geld wat tot dusver, saam al die miljoene beloftes nie eerder in die huidige elektrisiteits krisis wat Tzaneen en omgewing in die gesig staar, ingestoot word nie. Verslaggewers moet by monde van media woordvoerders antwoorde verskaf en berigewing so deur gee aan die publiek. Om konstant na bewering en 'volgens' van betroubare bronne meer verneem wat die probleem is, laat mens meer as net 'n rot ruik. En die afgesaagde term, meer as die oortjies van die seekoeie, blyk in die geval van die munisipaliteit se versuim om antwoorde te verskaf, nie meer die geval te wees nie.

Dit is nou meer as 'n probleem.
 Die huidige elektrisiteit situasie dra by tot die frustrasie van inwoners, en gemoedere het kookpunt bereik.

Dit wil voorkom asof die stoompot binnekort gaan ontplof...en dan...wat dan?

Dit is dalk hoogtyd dat Tzaneeners nou begin saamstaan en 'n belastingsbetalers forum stig. Dalk sal, en kan dit heelmoontlik die munisipaliteit op hulle tone hou, want tans lyk dit asof die Prima Donna wat dienslewering moet lewer nie meer 'n staande applous werd is nie. En is hulle vertoning verby flou!
 Belastingebetalers is besig om hulle 'Transformers te blaas'
 Wie smeet wat toe? En waarom?

MEET OUR IEB ACHIEVERS

