



RAMOTSHERE MOILOA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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Ramotshere Moiloa clears the air on Learnership programme

Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality acknowledges allegations levelled against the institution regarding the **R11 750 000.00** learnership programme and further wish to respond on the matter. The learnership program; which is funded by Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA) was planned to run for the duration of 12 months with each learner qualifying for R1000.00 stipend which they signed for and not an alleged R3500.00

The purpose of the learnership program was to ensure that unemployed learners are given an opportunity to explore themselves in the world of construction to either work for themselves or for existing and established companies. AbaSebenzi was contracted to conduct LGSETA funded training in Building and Civil Construction (Masonry) NQF 3 Learnership Program for 200 learners, Brainwave Projects (End User Computing) for 100 learners and VB Skills Agenda (Road Construction) for 100 learners. The learning areas were clustered as follows:

1. Dinokana,
2. Ikageleng,
3. Motswedi, and

4. Moshana.

The Municipality was of the view that all the lessons were going as planned since they received the attendance registers from the service providers and that there were no challenges reported where by the council was convinced that it was all systems go until there was an outcry from the students through the media.

In order to salvage the situation, the municipality engaged with the service providers and the learners in the council chambers to find way forward. It was during this engagement that the Management was informed about what actually transpired in the learning areas. The students indicated that they were offered theoretical learning except for the practical learning. "we have completed the theory and are left with the practical learning of which we are still waiting to get an indication as to when it will commence. Our intention is not to disgrace the municipality but want justice to be done and we appreciate this meeting and hope that our concerns will be addressed", said a representative of the learners.

The Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Thompson Phakalane applauded the learners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the Municipality. "I must say I really appreciate your brave action by showing your dissatisfactions even though you used the media as a platform to raise them. This clearly indicates that some people did not do what they were supposed to do thus tainting the image of the municipality. I also want to indicate that ever since the news emerged, we have been busy with the internal investigations and we hope they will shed more light as to what is the root of this situation", said the Acting Municipal Manager.

Phakalane also assured them that the Management and the service providers will engage further to work on a remedial action regarding the practical

learning which is essential for the learners to undergo. "When the Municipality applied for funding from Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA), there were ongoing MIG projects for (2013/14) but the funding was paid late and the projects were nearing completion. It was envisaged that the Learnership will run concurrently with projects to allow the learners an opportunity to do practical learning but that was not possible due to matters beyond our control. Therefore we will have to find a workable solution to assist with the practical learning", he said.

Regarding the allegations of fruitless and wasteful expenditure, Phakalane mentioned that investigations are underway. "I want to assure you that municipal internal investigations are underway and if any official employed by the council is implicated in any form of maladministration or corruption, disciplinary measures will be applied. If service providers did not deliver, then their payments will be withheld if needs be. People will have to account for their conduct", said the Acting MM during the meeting.

The Municipality advised the learners to nominate four representatives for all clusters to engage direct with the municipality in ensuring proper communication and to avoid future misunderstandings. The council also promised to address all the challenges raised by the learners.

END

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