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**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

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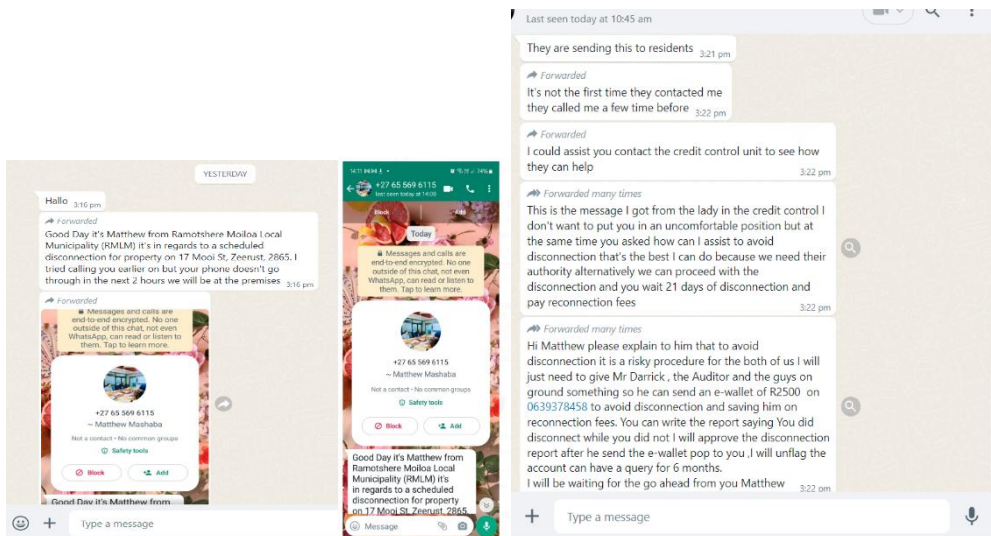
**03 April 2024**

**Press Release**

**Warning against scams involving payments to avoid service disconnection**

Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality has noted with concern about the recent scam regarding disconnection of services. It has been brought to the Mayor's attention that certain individuals are falsely claiming to represent the municipality and demanding payments from residents to avoid disconnection of essential services.

On Tuesday afternoon, one of the Senior Managers received messages from a resident who was contacted by the Scammer, Mr Matthew Mashaba informing him that his services will be cut off if he does not pay an amount of R2500.00.



Mayor Dina Pitso humbly pleads with the residents to be vigilant at all times since people would do anything for a quick cash. “We want to emphasize that our municipality does not engage in such practices. We do not demand immediate payments over the phone or through unverified channels. Any communication regarding billing or service disconnection is done through official channels, with proper documentation and notification processes. It is crucial for our community members to be vigilant and cautious when receiving such demands. Also, the municipality does not have any employee under the name of Matthew Mashaba”, warns the mayor.

### **Tips on what to do when getting a suspicious call or message:**

**Verify the Caller:** Always verify the identity of the caller before sharing any personal or financial information. Ask for official credentials or contact the municipality directly through verified channels to confirm the legitimacy of the call.

**Official Communication:** The municipality communicates important information through official letters, emails, or notices delivered to your

registered address. We do not rely solely on phone calls for urgent payment demands.

**Report Suspicious Activities:** If you receive any suspicious calls or demands for immediate payments, report them to local authorities and municipality immediately. Your cooperation helps us in identifying and addressing fraudulent activities.

The municipality further assures the community that it takes its security and well-being seriously and are committed to ensuring fair and transparent practices in all processes. We urge everyone to stay informed and cautious to protect themselves from scams.

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**Issued by**

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