

# The Weekly

## MATJHABENG CHALLENGES AUDIT FINDINGS

February 22, 2013

An emergency meeting was called last week Friday by the Matjhabeng Local Municipality in order to respond to the auditor-general's (AG) report that was released two weeks. The report found instances of maladministration in the municipality's finances.

Executive mayor, Sebezile Ngangelizwe; municipal manager, German Ramathebane and ward councillor, Archie Mbana, all expressed their discontentment with the findings of the AG and have arguing that they were inaccurate.

"We have noted with concern the carefully distorted statements on our state of the AG report for the financial year 2011/2012 by numerous local newspapers. We want to set the record straight that there are many distortions; over exaggerations and misrepresentation of facts on how some of the findings made by the AG were reported to the public," said Ngangelizwe.

Ngangelizwe said the distortions are nothing else but attempts to erode public confidence in the leadership of the municipality. He vowed to correct the inaccuracies identified in the AG' report.

"We want to assure the public that we are on course in our quest for a clean administration and delivery of quality services to our people.

"We need for the community of Matjhabeng Local Municipality to firstly understand that these terms being used can be very misleading. Secondly, we want to assure the community that we as the executive and administration of the municipality is working toward a clean administration and an improved AG report in 2014.

He said the municipality is working hard to improve its financial management system to comply with the Municipal Finance Management Act.

"Whilst we can acknowledge a number of findings by the report as correct, we want to categorically state that the figures stated under property, plant and equipment, investment property, consumer debtors and non-current consumer debtors are carried over from previous financial year. They do not represent in anyway figures for a single financial year."

Ngangelizwe said he was personally committed to ensuring the corrective measures proposed by the AG are implemented.

"We have noted issues raised in the AG report, especially lack of internal control and we have set in motion endeavours to embark on a process of identifying weaknesses in our administrative processes and realignment of administrative systems and policies in order to strengthen and ensure sustainable service delivery."

The administration, under Ramathebane, has already developed an action plan to address the queries. He will further monitor the whole programme frequently.

Ramathebane said various critical posts such as that of chief financial officer, would be filled this year to ensure compliance.

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“We have also started a monthly meeting with the AG in order to set all the inaccuracies straight that accord in the last financial year, in order to start with a clean slate for 2014.”

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]