

HEAD OFFICE: KOSTER

P.O. Box 66, Koster, 0348

Tel/ Fax: (014) 543 2004/5/6

Our Ref:



All correspondents must be addressed to:
"The Municipal Manager"

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

DATE: 07th January 2021

URGENT PRESS RELEASE.

ILLEGAL TAKING OVER OF STATE PROPERTY IN KGETLENGRIVIER LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

In December 2020 the 1st applicant who qualified themselves as Kgetlengrivier Concerned Citizens and 2nd applicant being Mr. Carel Van Heerden made an urgent application in terms of the provision of rule 6(12) of the Uniform rules of Court. The matter was heard on the **18th of December 2020** and the interim order was issued in favour of the applicants with the return date of the 1st March 2021.

The applicants mainly prayed that the respondents must provide purified and portable water. Secondly the respondents stop with immediate effect the spillage into the river streams. The respondents have been supplying portable and purified water to the communities of Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality. Efforts have been made to stop the spillage into the Koster and Elands rivers and the respondents have succeeded in this regard.

The respondents have further filled papers on urgent basis with the North West High Court to hear the respondent's consideration application. Prior filling, a professional courtesy request was made to the applicants to withhold the execution of the interim order granted on the 18th Of December 2020.

To the municipality's dismay an interim order was executed illegally so by the respondents in the most hostile and inconsiderate manner. The applicants took control of the water treatment plant and waste treatment plant without any courtesy nor due observation of hand over processes despite being informed that the consideration application is set down to be heard on the 8th of January 2020.

The applicants came with scores of security personnel including K9 dogs and took over the plants which meant that the provision of water was immediately interrupted due to hostile take-over of the waste and water treatment plants which ceased to operate due to forced shut down by the applicants.

This essentially means the residents of Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality were deprived provision of water by the applicants, therefore violating their constitutional rights. The so called experts brought by the applicants were not presented formally to the municipality, any government institution or the court nor their qualifications presented to any of the afore mentioned institutions to verify if indeed they are qualified to operate the plants.

This essentially means the applicants have taken over the plants without demonstrating to the respondent that they have sought the necessary experts to operate the plant, a function constitutionally bestowed to the respondent.

As the municipality we therefore wish to inform the public that the interruption of the services is due to the hostile and illegal take-over of state property by Mr. Carel Van Heerden and so called Kgetlengrivier Concerned Citizens mainly constituted by a handful of white residents. The municipality will be presenting its case before court tomorrow the 8th of January 2021 and hope to restore services back to the people of Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality. We therefore discourage the residents of Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality not to consume the water provided as of the 7th January 2021 from 11 am which is the period the applicants took over the state property due to the fact that the municipality as the legitimate and constitutionally empowered organ to discharge such a service cannot vouch for the safety and quality of water to be provided by the applicants.

For any enquiry Contact Mr R.J Mogale (Municipal Manager) on 082 723 8951

END OF STATEMNET