
MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release
Monday, 04 August 2025

MUNICIPALITY DISPELS MALICIOUS ALLEGATIONS CIRCULATED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS

Polokwane Municipality has noted with concern a defamatory infographic being circulated on social media platforms alleging systemic corruption involving senior municipal officials.

The municipality categorically rejects these claims as **misleading, malicious, and unsubstantiated**, aimed at undermining public confidence in the institution and tarnishing the image of its leadership.

The infographic further displays alleged amounts of money paid to certain projects, which are **grossly misleading, unverified, and untrue**. This misrepresentation of financial data seeks to create a false narrative about the integrity of municipal processes and leadership.

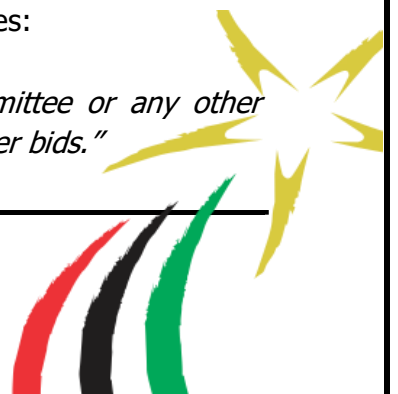
The Executive Mayor, Cllr Makoro John Mpe, has also publicly denied any association with the companies named in the post. The Executive Mayor remains committed to **clean, transparent governance** and welcomes any lawful investigation into the matter by authorised oversight bodies.

The City Manager, Ms Thuso Nemugumoni, has since clarified publicly that the properties referred to in the post were purchased through her hard-earned personal savings and proceeds from the sale of a rental property. As with any employee of the state, she retains the right to invest her personal income in property and other assets, provided all activities remain within the boundaries of the law. There is **no credible evidence** suggesting any wrongdoing on her part.

Clarifying supply chain roles and governance

Importantly, **councillors do not participate in Supply Chain Management (SCM) processes**, as this is strictly prohibited in terms of **Section 117 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), Act No. 56 of 2003**, which explicitly states:

"No councillor of any municipality may be a member of a bid committee or any other committee evaluating or approving tenders, quotations, contracts or other bids."



This ensures the integrity, fairness and independence of procurement processes.

In accordance with **Section 55(1)(b) of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000)**, the **Municipal Manager (MM) is the accounting officer** of the municipality and is responsible for:

"Managing the administration of the municipality in accordance with the Municipal Council's instructions and applicable legislation."

In the context of SCM, the City Manager **does not sit on or influence bid committees**, but exercises oversight through **approval** of procurement decisions as required by legislation. The adjudication and evaluation of tenders remain the responsibility of duly appointed, independent bid committees.

Clarifying the appointment of Mr Kenny Chihota

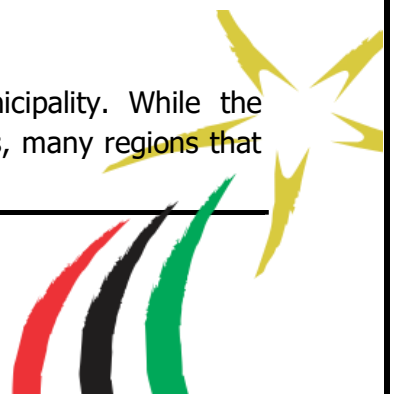
Regarding recent public commentary on the appointment of Mr Chihota, the municipality wishes to clarify that **Council has only approved his nomination**, but **no official appointment has been made**. The process is still subject to the concurrence and approval of the **Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs** in the Limpopo Province, as prescribed by law.

Additionally, contrary to misinformation, **Mr Chihota is a South African citizen** with full **citizenship rights, including the right to vote**, as enshrined in the **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, Section 3(2)**. While born in Zimbabwe, he holds lawful South African citizenship and meets all the eligibility requirements for public service appointment, including qualifications and compliance with relevant legislation.

Ongoing service delivery and infrastructure investment

Despite these distractions, Polokwane Municipality continues to focus on delivering services to its communities. The **war on potholes has been intensified**, with full road resurfacing currently underway on **Nelson Mandela Drive**. Streets already completed include **Dorp, Thabo Mbeki, Grobler, Church, Bodenstein, Jorissen**, and others. Upcoming resurfacing works will focus on **Ivy Park, Penina Park, Bendor**, and the **Central Business District (CBD)**.

Water supply has also improved significantly across the municipality. While the municipality acknowledges that a few areas continue to face challenges, many regions that



previously experienced persistent supply issues are now receiving water. This progress is a result of interventions including the **drilling of additional boreholes** and the commissioning of the **new Seshego Water Treatment Plant**, which is injecting **8 to 10 megalitres of clean water per day** into the system.

Polokwane Municipality:

- Remains guided by the principles of **accountability, clean administration, and ethical leadership**.
- Reaffirms that all tenders are awarded through **legally regulated SCM processes**, subject to internal and external audit.
- Rejects xenophobic undertones and personal attacks, and urges the public to refrain from sharing **unverified claims** that threaten social cohesion and institutional credibility.

Any person or organisation in possession of credible evidence is encouraged to approach the relevant law enforcement or oversight institutions such as the **Public Protector, Hawks, or Special Investigating Unit (SIU)** for due process to follow its course.

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ISSUED BY POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY: Communications and Marketing Unit

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