
MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release
Wednesday, 01 July 2026

POST-SPECIAL COUNCIL STATEMENT - SPECIAL COUNCIL TAKES DECISIVE STEPS TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE, PROTECT PUBLIC FUNDS AND ADVANCE SERVICE DELIVERY

Polokwane Municipal Council convened a Special Council Sitting on Tuesday, 30 June 2026, where several strategic governance, infrastructure, housing and financial matters were considered and approved to strengthen accountability, improve service delivery and safeguard public resources.

COUNCIL APPROVES REVIEWED DELEGATION OF POWERS

Council approved the reviewed **Delegation of Powers**, an important governance instrument that enhances efficiency, transparency and accountability across the municipality. The revised framework aligns municipal operations with the Municipal Systems Act and other applicable legislation while empowering Executive Directors and delegated officials to make administrative decisions within clearly defined limits. The review also introduces delegations for established Executive Director positions, ensuring faster decision-making, uninterrupted service delivery and strengthened accountability throughout the institution.

NEW RETENTION POLICY STRENGTHENS ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Council approved the **Construction Contract Policy on Retention** following a comprehensive public participation process.

The policy establishes a uniform system for managing retention monies on all municipal construction projects. Under this framework, the municipality will withhold a predetermined portion of payments due to contractors until the expiry of the contractual defects liability period. This serves as a financial safeguard to ensure contractors deliver quality workmanship and honour their contractual obligations after project completion.

Should a contractor complete a municipal infrastructure project—such as a road, building, bridge or other public facility—and the structure develops defects or collapses within the prescribed defects liability period due to poor workmanship or failure to meet contractual standards, the municipality may utilise the retained funds to compel corrective action or undertake the necessary repairs without placing an additional financial burden on ratepayers.

The policy therefore protects public funds, promotes quality infrastructure, strengthens contractor accountability and addresses concerns previously raised during audit processes regarding the management of retention monies.

COUNCIL ADOPTS DISCIPLINARY REPORT ON COUNCILLOR ROELOF FREDERIK LOURENS

Council adopted the report of the Rules and Ethics Committee regarding the disciplinary proceedings against **Councillor Roelof Frederik Lourens**.

Following a disciplinary process conducted in accordance with applicable legislation and municipal procedures, Council found Councillor Lourens guilty of gross dereliction of duty and contravening the Code of Conduct for Councillors after failing to fulfil key responsibilities expected of a ward councillor, including submitting the Ward Committee Operational Plan, convening Ward Committee meetings and holding mandatory ward public meetings.

Council resolved to recommend to the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) responsible for Local Government (CoGHSTA) that Councillor Roelof Frederik Lourens be removed from office, subject to the processes prescribed in the Municipal Structures Act and the applicable Code of Conduct for Councillors.

COUNCIL APPROVES 2026/27 HOUSING PROJECTS

Council approved the **2026/27 Housing Projects**, paving the way for the delivery of **260 housing opportunities** across urban and rural communities.

The approved allocation includes **122 urban housing units** allocated through the National Housing Needs Register, **10 units** reserved for qualifying special cases and **128 rural housing units** distributed across fifteen rural wards. The programme seeks to address the growing housing backlog while ensuring equitable access to housing opportunities and improving the quality of life of deserving beneficiaries.

COUNCIL NOTES IMPLEMENTATION OF EMPLOYEE SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

In line with the **2024–2029 SALGBC Multi-Year Salary and Wage Collective Agreement**, Council approved the implementation of a **4.75% across-the-board salary increase** for qualifying municipal employees with effect from **1 July 2026**.

The implementation also includes adjustments to medical aid contributions, homeowner allowances and other employment benefits as provided for in the collective agreement. The

municipality confirmed that adequate provision has been made within the approved 2026/27 Budget to implement these increases.

Speaking after the Special Council Sitting, Executive Mayor **Cllr Makoro John Mpe** reaffirmed Council's commitment to financial sustainability, ethical leadership and sound governance.

"We continue to demonstrate that sound leadership and financial discipline produce tangible results. We are now collecting more than 90% of the revenue billed to residents, reflecting growing public confidence and a stronger culture of payment that enables us to reinvest in service delivery. Council also deliberated on critical recruitment processes, particularly the appointment of Executive Directors for Water and Sanitation as well as Energy Services, because these are strategic portfolios that must drive our developmental agenda. What gives us confidence is that the tide has turned. Irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure continues to decline, while our audit outcomes have steadily improved under this Council. Going forward, every Executive Director will be held directly accountable for financial discipline. The elimination of irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure will form part of their performance management, because every rand lost to poor governance is a rand stolen from service delivery."

The Executive Mayor said the resolutions adopted by Council demonstrate the municipality's commitment to strengthening governance, protecting public resources, accelerating service delivery and ensuring that every decision taken contributes to building a capable, accountable and developmental local government that serves the people of Polokwane with integrity.

ENDS

ISSUED BY POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY: Communications and Marketing Unit

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