

# **SPECIAL MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

*of the*

## **NEWCASTLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE CONTINUATION SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE NEWCASTLE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE EXCO ROOM, MUNICIPAL  
BUILDING, SCOTT STREET, NEWCASTLE ON MONDAY,  
20 MARCH 2017 AT 09:00

## MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

CONTINUATION SPECIAL MEETING : 20 MARCH 2017

### ATTENDANCE REGISTER

#### PRESENT

Councillor	M	E	Ngcobo	:	Chairperson
Councillor	B	S	Dlamini		
Councillor	N	P	Kunene		
Councillor	A	P	Meiring		
Councillor	S	G	Miya		
Councillor	S	J	Nhlapho		
Councillor	S	E	Shabangu		
Councillor	L	G	Thwala		
Councillor	M	W	Twala		
Councillor	T	M	Zulu		

#### ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGY

Councillor	M	S	Mlangeni
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#### VACANCY

Ward 23

#### OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Strategic Executive Director : Electrical/Mechanical Ser.	:	Mr	L	Zincume
Acting Strategic Executive Director : Corporate Services	:	Ms	N	Vinkhumbo
Acting Strategic Executive Director : BTO	:	Mr	S	Nkosi
Director : Culture and Amenities	:	Mrs	E P	Niemand
Director : Human Settlements	:	Mr	M O	Shozi
Chief Audit Executive	:	Ms	S	Chenia
Manager : Monitoring and Evaluation	:	Mrs	N	Ticka-Ragunanan
Manager : Contracts	:	Mr	Q	Zwane
Administrative Assistant	:	Ms	Z	Xulu
Student	:	Mr	S N	Gamede

**1 : OPENING**

The Chairperson requested the Strategic Executive Director : Electrical/Mechanical Services to open the meeting with prayer, thereafter officially opened the meeting. The drafting of the Oversight Report continued from the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**2 : APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**NONE**

**3 : OVERSIGHT REPORT : 2015/2016 : (MM 6/1/1 - 2015/2016)****Disclosures in notes to AFS****(i) The Annual Performance Reports of the municipality and entities**

The committee engaged and expressed their concerns with regards to management positions not filled. It noted that most vacancies were occupied in an acting capacity, and the delays in completing the re-engineering process. Of concern is poor turnaround time in awarding of bids which impacts performance, thereafter, it was

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That additional controls to monitor the engineering compliance of projects be implemented internally;
- (b) That the process of filling of top management positions be accelerated by Council ;
- (c) That a report be submitted quarterly to MPAC to monitor the implementation of the Audit Action Plan;
- (d) That the re-engineering process be finalised in order to roll-out individual performance effectively;
- (e) That there be an alignment of procurement planning and project implementation plans to ensure targets are met;
- (f) That revenue enhancement and debt collection be improved to reserve internal funds for future capital developments.

**MM**

**(ii) Audit report on performance****RESOLVED**

- (a) That management accelerate the action plan to undertake a baseline study, with the option of using VD Verification

**MM**

- and ward profiling through OSS and ward committee system;
- (b) That IT Solutions to create a date base of all basic service delivery issues relating to household services and backlogs per service and be maintained accordingly;

MM

(iii) **Performance of municipal entities and municipal service providers**

**RESOLVED**

That monitoring systems be implemented for the Entity based on agreed objectives by the shareholders and that be submitted to Council or regular monitoring.

MM

(iv) **Relevant information on municipal entities**

**RESOLVED**

That clarity be obtained from the MEC's Office regarding the intervention at uThukela Water (Pty) Ltd for consideration by Council.

MM

(v) **Service delivery performance on key service providers**

The committee raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of the mechanical workshop and fleet management.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That a presentation to MPAC be made by relevant departments to clarify challenges expressed in the annual report (service departments and progress made on the proposed solutions);
- (b) That a report on the functioning of the mechanical workshop (servicing all departments) be submitted to MPAC;
- (c) That management investigate options to address down time when vehicles are in the mechanical workshop for repairs;
- (d) That the issues of organisational culture be addressed by management and relevant portfolio Chairpersons be engaged accordingly;
- (e) That the authenticity of reports from departments submitted to MPAC and portfolio committees be reconciled and the issues of integration and under

MM

performance be identified and addressed at management level.

(vi) **Information technology and systems purchases and the effectiveness of these systems in the delivery of services and ensuring compliance with statutory obligations**

The Committee indicated that there were concerns with regards to financial impact and shortages on the roll-out of the EDRMS, thereafter advised that IT to address customer complaints and other infrastructural requirements (broadband, WIFI etc.) be developed.

**RESOLVED**

That a progress report on the roll-out of the EDRMS project including the financial implications be submitted to MPAC. | IT

(vii) **Payment of performance bonuses to municipal officials**

The Committee noted that no bonuses were paid in the year under review and that there were a few vacant management positions.

**RESOLVED**

- a) That the evaluation process be finalised for further consideration of Council; | MM  
b) That Council accelerate the filling of vacant section 56 positions.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A special MPAC reconvene on 22 March 2017 at 08:00 to confirm and approval the Oversight Report for onward submission to Council.

**CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 11:00.

**CONFIRMED**

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**DATE**

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**CHAIRPERSON**