



GREATER TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY

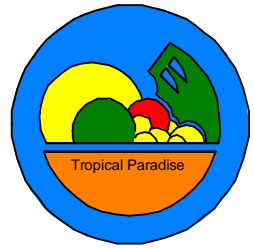
GROTER TZANEEN MUNISIPALITEIT

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MEDIA RELEASE, 25 June 2014

STATEMENT OF GTM'S PURCHASE OF 30 LAPTOPS

It is unfortunate that some members of the media continue to disregard the rules of engagement when it comes to reporting news. As a municipality we are very transparent and open to public scrutiny. Our affairs are conducted in line with all relevant government legislation and procedures. It comes as a shock when our people especially the tax payers of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality are exposed to blatant lies in stories riddled with slander, defamation and inaccuracies.

The reports in the media that the GTM has purchased laptops from a filling station are not accurate. To a layman it seems like a big corrupt activity but in terms of legislation it a fair process that can stand any scrutiny. These stories were published with malicious intent and the authors and sources were clearly bent on misleading the public.

What the media has failed to highlight is that the company in question is called " Gravelotte Filling Station and Projects". According to its records the company is allowed to trade as a "Filling Station, Hardware, a Supermarket and other business activities. This simply implies that they can trade in all aspects and they are not restricted to any particular business activity.

Contrary to media reports, official company records at our disposal show that the owner of a company is not an 18 year man. The owner is Makgone Jenifer Matsebatlela who is a 24 year-old woman. The bid for the supply of the laptops was advertised in the local newspapers on the 21st of February 2013 along with other bids. This bid was for the supply and delivery of laptops according to specification contained in the tender documents, this tender was opened to any company that has the capacity to deliver laptops as per specifications. Gravelotte Filling Station and Projects meet the criteria since its trading in all aspects. Their quotation was the lowest that met all specifications and expectations.

The service provider was appointed on 4th of May 2013 to deliver 30 laptops. All 30 laptops have been delivered and are all reflected in our asset register and they can all be accounted for. They have been allocated to Councillors (All EXCO Members), Directors, Managers and other officials. It is not true that some laptops were not delivered, there is also no factual basis in the reports that the Hawks is investigating. If they are investigating then they have not yet informed the municipality of such investigation.

The service provider did not declare any conflict of interest or relationship with any municipal councillor or official who is in a position to influence decisions with regard to appointment of service providers. Also as municipality we did not have reasons to suspect the existence of any relationship which could give an unfair advantage to the appointed service provider.

This bid (Bid No: SMCUQ 04/2013) was handled in line with our supply chain management policy and processes and the Municipal Finance Management Act.

End

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