



GREATER TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY

GROTER TZANEEN MUNISIPALITEIT

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MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 March 2013

The story published in the Bulletin's front page, titled "GTM doomed" on the edition of the 7th of March 2014 is not only misleading but defamatory. In this article the Bulletin confidently "reveals" to the general public that the GTM has purchased 23 Samsung Tablets valued at R5999 each at a total cost of R137 977 at Game Stores Tzaneen. We want to refute these claims as unfounded and nonexistent. The headline of the story is also exaggerated and creates an impression of a municipality that flaunts financial laws and regulations, which the public may interpret as corruption or incompetence in the part of its employees. We call on the Editor of the Bulletin to verify your information through other independent sources before publishing their stories. The Bulletin cannot publish as facts information that cannot be corroborated by any evidence. This story is based merely on statements of a "financial expert" and is not supported by document.

Just like you did, Mr Aucamp, today i can reveal that after engaging management at Game Stores that another municipality bought Samsung tablets at Game around the same period not the GTM. In the telephone conversation also told you we did not buy such tablets. Why do i have to defend a situation that does not exist. My answer on the phone should have been enough but instead you go make our interaction a newspaper headline on the FrontPage. I have tried contacting you on several occasions on both your office line and cellphone but with little success. What you fail

to tell your readers is that you are not accessible to us. You hardly return calls. Secondly you send me questions you send to the GTM in 2012.

Bulletin continuous attack on the GTM creates an impression that you are on a mission to discrediting the GTM and its leaders, while we welcome any probe into the operational matters of the GTM, its employees and leaders we urge the media to do so with caution and in a manner that will not unfairly disadvantage either the name of the GTM or any of its officials. Our principles include among others professionalism, accountability and transparency and any media house is welcomed to scrutinise the affairs of the GTM in the interest of the community.

It is also worth noting that GTM has resolved to introduce a paperless administration which will see our councillors using either tablets or laptops to conduct council business. Council approved the purchase of laptops and tablets for councillors during a Special Council sitting on the 26th of February 2014. The gadgets to be purchased will be council property rather than councillors'. The introduction of the paperless administration will reduce maintenance costs of photocopy machines, cost of printing papers, overtime, fuel and any other cost related to the production and distribution of council documents.

END

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