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UMZINYATHI

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY / UMASIPALA WESIFUNDA

TO THE EDITOR
GREYTOWN GAZETTE
30 JUNE 2008

THIS IS NONSENSE!

This is real nonsense, Umzinyathi under my Leadership and under IFP shall never spent such amount when people do not have services, but as long as Greytown Gazette is still mouth piece of the ruling Party we will always read this propaganda in our local newspaper, how can the person spend R300 00 per plate, this is nothing else but propaganda and that people we transported by Municipal vehicles was blue lies worst from a person who was not even there.

What a brave reporter reporting as if she was present during the event misleading residents, how can you trust such a paper? HOW? HOW? To prove what I am saying she writes about MUDEN District we do not have a District called MUDEN where Cllr Ngobese stays and he is not a special Councillor above all Councillors invitations was brought to the attention of Umvoti Municipality not Muden District, if Ngobese was not present that is not our business. We have invited Greytown Gazette several times no response except criticism.

How many Izimbizo has taken place in this area? Why does she not write about them? Last weekend there was one. Will she be negative about it since we had crisis about its organisation where I was not invited, Mayor Ngubane was not given a chance to say Hi! It is so funny when the newspaper which is supposed to be the watch dog of the public becomes a mouth piece for the ruling party. Where are heading to when the entire media is monopolised in this fashion and its editors made puppets of the state.

Moreover to share some green light, the said reporter happened to get hold of the operation plan for the Imbizo and she wrote about our budget estimate and not the real figure which was utilised. The R 450 000.00 she is referring to was an estimate

budget to produce promotional material and the printing of the summary of the annual report which in any way had been produced in-house and no money spent and yet the unscrupulous reporter continues to pin the nail where there is no wood.

The event itself was huge success and we are satisfied that we accomplished our mission with a turn up of about 5000 people which attending our Imbizo.

Again, a wrong impression is created by the same reporter, that councillor Ngobese was not invited. If Cllr. Ngobese does not attend council meetings who then will run after him and report these council matters to him. In fact he should be fired for non attendance if that is the case. Moreover this was not a budget meeting but it was a report back to the community about the municipal performance for 2006/2007 financial year. We just do not do this because we feel like spending the money but Chapter 6 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act No. 32, 2000, article no.42 which talks of Community involvement in the Municipal Affairs gives us the authority to do what we did. A quote from that act will share some light in that regard.

"A municipality, through appropriate mechanisms, processes and procedures established in terms of Chapter 4 of this Act, must involve the local community in the development, implementation and the review of the municipality's performance management system and in particular, allow the community to participate in the setting of appropriate key performance indicators and performance targets of the municipality"

Furthermore, the Municipal finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003 says that 'every municipality and every municipal entity must for each financial year prepare an annual report.'

The purpose of the annual report is;

- To provide a record of activities of the municipality for the that financial year,
- To promote accountability to the local community for the decisions made throughout the year by the municipality and
- To provide a report on the performance against the budget of the municipality for that financial year.

Therefore, the purpose for the imbizo was to create awareness on the municipal performance for the 2006 / 2007 financial year and to present the record of the municipal activities for the year under review to the citizens of the district and not all the nonsense that the Greytown Gazette is trying propagate.

I AM SICK AND TIRED.

Cllr. M.S. Yengwa
Mayor of Umzinyathi District Municipality