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UMZINYATHI

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY / UMASIPALA WESIFUNDA

Att: Terry Worley
Northern KZN Courier
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August 8, 2008

Re- Press Query: Disaster Management Awareness Campaign

Thank you for your enquiry dated 5 August 2008. The said campaign will take place in 30 August 2008 at the Nquthu Stadium. It is true that the budget of R 800 000. 00 has been set aside for the purpose. I see that you manage to get hold of the budget estimates for this campaign. Like I say these are just budget estimates. The real expenditure for the entire campaign will be available on request. I must also point out that the procuring of goods is governed by the Supply Chain Management of Council which is also available to the public. Before that policy came into effect, communities were consulted and made aware of such a policy. Submissions were received and incorporated before it was adopted by Council.

I must also point out that the Disaster Awareness Campaign was discussed at ExCo level which comprises of Cllr. M.S. Yengwa as the Chairperson, the Deputy Mayor Cllr. T.H. Mchunu, Cllr. F.S. Mkhize, Cllr. B. Brown and Cllr. Ahmed Shaikh.

The issue of these budget estimates were never an issue in that meeting of the 17th July 2008.

The question regarding training of the community, I think everybody knows that Umzinyathi District Municipality has a Disaster Management Centre which runs the operations of Rural Metro. It is headed by a Disaster Manager. Further to that a Disaster Management Plan level 1, 2 and 3 have been developed and adopted by Council. Those plans spell out clearly all the questions of training, volunteers and the Disaster Management Advisory Committee which comprises of a variety of stakeholders including business, farming community, SAPS, EMRS and many others.

Again your question regarding transport, our policy states clearly which figures needs to go on tender? The transportation of the public will not be awarded to one company as your question insinuates, but we invite quotations from local base companies within the district.

I must assure the Courier and everybody concerned that Umzinyathi District Municipality like any other public institution has goodwill of its residents at heart. It is a responsible institution that spends its allocated funds according to its operational plan for that particular financial year. We are not afraid to answer any questions that may arise at any time, but also we must urge the public, interested parties and individuals to come to our budget and IDP consultative meetings because that is where these things get addressed. The manner in which we utilise our allocated funds is governed by the Municipal Finance Management Act and we have not contravened any part of the sections of this Act in this regard.

I hope this addresses your concerns and for those who are also worried about the way we manage public purse.

Vusumuzi Mdletshe
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