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### **ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

ATT: Editors/Journalists

### **MEDIA STATEMENT: UPDATE ON DISRUPTION OF OPERATIONS AT DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MAIN OFFICES**

As follow up to the statement issued by the institution on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, regarding the unfortunate events that took place at the Balfour municipal offices leading to disruption of services and daily operations.

An urgent interim court order, issued on Rule Nisi with a returnable date on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 was granted in favor of the municipality on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, which was first served to the first and second respondents via email on the very same day.

Subsequent to that, the Sherriff of the court, in the presence of members of the South African Police Service served the court order to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and other respondents in person, as directed by the court in front of the municipal offices.

The instigators who are said to be emanating from the unemployment sectoral leaders(s), who also happen to be represented in the LED Forum namely, 1<sup>st</sup> respondent Mr. Diphapang Papi Mokhomatha and 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent Mr. Kgotso Mokoena failed to comply and continuously contravened the provisions of the court order, leading to their arrest and detention along with two others individuals by police on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

In another attempt to comprehensively deal with this matter, Cllr. Mojalefa Miya who is the ward councillor for ward 4 and also a Member of the Mayoral Committee, responsible for Planning & Economic Development and Infrastructure Services also held a public meeting in his ward attempting to demistify the problem statement of work opportunities within capital infrastructure projects implemented by the municipality.

The institution gratefully acknowledges the significant role played by local organised labour in reclaiming their work space from being disrupted and is equally pleased to notify the public that they can now effortlessly access all services as operations are back to normal observing that employees were able to take up their rightful workstations as of Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

These luckless acts led to the institution increasing security measures and instilling stricter protocols at the premises to qualify the safety and security for both human capital as well as property and equipment.

A draft Safety Procedure Plan has been developed by the institution which is expected to follow all due internal processes with the aim to rapidly approve such document to allow for apposite implementation in the event of such instances.

Lastly, the institution would like to reiterate the need for stakeholders to rather employ all available and reasonable avenues of engagements at their disposal and to refrain from the utilization of dejected and unlawful acts of this nature.

ENDS

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