

Mayor snubs forum

SANDI KWON HOO

CHIEF REPORTER

THE OFFICE of the Mayor is not able to attend to urgent service matters raised by the Sol Plaatje Community Forum as it is occupied with other “pressing issues” as well as the upcoming by-elections.

The forum has been trying unsuccessfully to arrange a meeting with Sol Plaatje executive mayor Patrick Mabilo to discuss various service delivery issues, including the water crisis, since its last meeting with the mayor on December 12.

The secretary of the Sol Plaatje Community Forum, Tumelo Mosikare, said yesterday that they had not received any details regarding a new date for the requested meeting.

In a letter dated January 22, the forum stated that it wanted to follow up on a number of matters and to discuss, among others, issues such as access to drinking water, water shutdowns and Expanded Public Works Programme workers who are apparently being forced to do political campaigning during work hours.

“There are undue pressures suffered by the community such as inflated municipal bills, blocked electricity, evictions, community facilities without security that are being vandalised and environmental disasters brought about by maladministration and disregard of warnings, including the disaster at Kamfers Dam where thousands of flamingo chicks have been left at risk,” said Mosikare.

The forum is also questioning where funds amounting to R1.2 million that were allocated to upgrade the Galeshewe Stadium were spent, although no work was done on site.

“In your published audited financial statement for last year, many project’s funds were spent where we can see very little to no progress on them. A case in point is the multi-purpose sport court at the Galeshewe Stadium that is currently nothing more

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than a gravel patch with no sport court. According to the municipality’s report, the money was already spent last year. We hope the president sees this when he visits the stadium tomorrow.”

The forum is also concerned about the findings of the auditor-general’s 2018 report.

“The audit report supports the issues raised by the community last year during protest action – that the administration of the municipality is the cause of the deterioration and decay of the city. The finances of the city are being spent irregularly and there is little to no service delivery. We are now faced with water shortages clearly caused by maladministration and very few of the fully-funded projects of the municipality are being implemented.

“The audit report bears a vivid resemblance to the Section 106 report at Sol Plaatje Municipality. To date, the full document has not been made public.”

The Office of the Mayor’s office, in reply, explained that the Sol Plaatje executive mayor was committed to finding working solutions to the issues raised by the community and agreed to convene a meeting, although no date was specified.

“Due to pressing issues and the upcoming by-elections a meeting will be convened two weeks from now. The office will confirm a date and time. Thank you for your patience and understanding.”

The Office of the Mayor did not respond to media enquiries.