



Patrick Mabilo

A 'stay of execution' for Mabilo

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THE EXECUTIVE mayor of the Sol Plaatje Municipality, Patrick Mabilo's job was temporarily spared after the council meeting that was scheduled to take place yesterday morning at 10am was postponed "until further notice due to the late receipt of agendas".

The notice of cancellation was sent on Tuesday afternoon.

There were apparently only a few items on the agenda, including a motion of no confidence against the mayor that was submitted by the DA on November 22 for consideration.

The DA also submitted that council should set aside the R1,6 million cleaning project that would employ a thousand workers to clean Galeshewe.

The motion for notice requested information regarding where the funding would be sourced, who would be appointed to the cleaning project and whether it was a fundraiser for the ANC anniversary.

Spokesperson for Sol Plaatje Municipality, Thoko Riet yesterday, said no date had been stipulated for the next meeting, which will be the last council meeting that will convene before the end of the year.

Most council proceedings will grind to a halt next week ahead of the festive holidays.

In its submission, the DA believed that Mabilo should immediately vacate his office, for failing to manage "six extreme failures" at the municipality and stated that he was no longer fit to hold office.

The problems highlighted include his decision to auction off the mayoral Audi Q7 mayoral vehicle that was purchased for his predecessor, Mangaliso Matika, for R1,1 million, his inability to manage the water crisis and failure to consult on the appointment of the acting municipal manager and acting chief financial officer.

The DA believes that the executive mayor was treating the expanded public works programme cleaning project "like his own personal project" while the municipality did not have the money to sustain it.

"We have no clue as to where the money is suddenly coming from to fund this project. The money allocated to the municipality must be utilised in a fair and transparent manner and cannot be treated as the mayor's own slush fund."

They stated that the mayor had failed to tackle serious corruption where officials implicated in the Section 106 investigation report were being protected.

"The mayor also failed to implement any form of consequence management."