

Recent disclosures by the Free State Provincial Legislature confirm that the municipality has lost over R1,6 billion in water over a five-year period due to leaks, poor maintenance and systemic neglect. This is not merely a technical failure – it is a glaring indictment of leadership and accountability at the highest administrative level.

The escalation of losses from R186 million in 2018/19 to R454 million in 2022/23 demonstrates a worsening crisis, not a contained one. Such figures reflect not only infrastructural decay but an apparent inability or unwillingness to implement basic asset management, preventative maintenance and oversight mechanisms.

This gross mismanagement is further compounded by:

- The municipality's failure to provide sustainable waste removal services, leaving communities exposed to health risks and environmental degradation.
- The inability to procure diesel for refuse trucks, resulting in irregular or non-existent waste collection.
- Substandard landfill site management, that is in direct contradiction to environmental compliance requirements.
- A city plagued by unrepaired potholes, creating hazardous conditions for residents and damaging local economic activity.
- Public parks are left unattended for months, reflecting a complete breakdown in routine municipal operations.

These failures occur while residents continue to pay rates and taxes with the reasonable expectation of service delivery.

Most concerning, however, is the reported decision in 2024 to award yourself a salary increase of approximately R700 000 for "excellent performance." In the context of the municipality's catastrophic failures, this decision is not only unjustifiable – it is profoundly offensive to every ratepayer in Mangaung.

It raises serious questions about governance ethics, performance evaluation standards, and whether any meaningful accountability exists within your administration.

Furthermore, according to findings from the Mangaung Annual Report of 2024/2025, the municipality has consistently recorded significant unauthorised and irregular expenditure in recent audit outcomes. Unauthorised expenditure amounts to R1 125 802 477 in the 2024/2025 consolidated annual report and irregular expenditure amounts to R260 761 163. These findings reinforce the reality that financial controls are either ineffective or deliberately ignored.

Seen together, these issues point to a municipality in steady decline under leadership that has demonstrably failed to meet even the most basic standards of public administration.

It must be stated plainly: **You are failing the residents of Mangaung.**

Your continued tenure as Municipal Manager, considering these outcomes, raises serious concerns about your suitability and competence to hold this office.

We therefore demand the following:

1. A comprehensive and public turnaround strategy addressing water losses, infrastructure maintenance and service delivery failures
2. Full transparency regarding performance assessments that justified executive salary increases
3. Immediate steps to stabilise waste management services and restore basic operational capacity
4. Clear accountability measures to address financial mismanagement and audit findings
5. A timeline for visible, measurable improvements across all critical service delivery areas
6. Your resignation, giving someone else the opportunity to save Mangaung.

Failure to act decisively will leave residents and civil society with no option but to escalate this matter through all available legal, civic and public channels.

The people of Mangaung deserve competent leadership, responsible governance, and the dignified delivery of basic services not excuses, neglect and self-enrichment.

Kind regards

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