

08 July 2026

Mr J. Mettler
City Manager
City of Tshwane Municipality
320 Madiba Street
PRETORIA
0001

By e-mail: citymanager@tshwane.gov.za

RE: RESPONSE TO YOUR LETTER DATED 2 JULY 2026 – ALLEGED USE OF MUNICIPAL RESOURCES AND OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS FOR POLITICAL PARTY PURPOSES

Dear Mr Mettler,

We refer to your letter dated 2 July 2026, acknowledging receipt of our correspondence and requesting further particulars to enable the City to investigate the allegations raised.

We appreciate the City's willingness to investigate the matter and hereby provide the requested information and supporting evidence.

1. Date and time of the incident

The political event in question took place on 16 June 2026 at the Union Buildings.

According to the attached municipal communication (Annexure A), the clean-up operation was scheduled for 16 June 2026 at 20:00 and 17 June 2026 at 08:00, immediately following the political event.

2. Location

The incident occurred at the Union Buildings, Pretoria.

3. Political party and event

The event referred to was an Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) public gathering held at the Union Buildings on 16 June 2026.

The attached communication (Annexure A) expressly states that the clean-up programme followed a "successful public EEF event" [sic]. Although "EEF" appears to be a typographical error, the reference clearly relates to the EFF event that had taken place at the venue.

June 2024

Address: 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30
Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.
Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

4. Municipal resources utilised

The City's own communication confirms that the following municipal resources were deployed:

- The MMC for Environment, Waste and Agriculture Management, Councillor Obakeng Ramabodu;
- The City's Waste Management team;
- City officials; and
- Municipal resources assigned to conduct a two-day clean-up programme immediately following the political event.

These resources were deployed after the venue had allegedly been left in an unacceptable condition following the political gathering.

5. Documentary evidence

Attached hereto as Annexure A is a copy of the official electronic communication ("e-card") published using City of Tshwane branding.

The communication contains:

- The official City of Tshwane logo;
- Municipal branding and contact details;
- The City's official design format;
- The details of the MMC responsible for the department;
- The dates and times of the clean-up operation; and
- A direct reference to the preceding EFF event.

6. Municipal communication platforms

The communication was distributed on official City of Tshwane social media platforms and utilises official municipal branding.

What is particularly concerning is that the communication is not politically neutral.

The poster adopts the red, green and black colour scheme strongly associated with the EFF and prominently features the MMC in attire matching those colours.

Furthermore, it explicitly states that the clean-up follows a "successful public EFF event" [sic], thereby associating an official municipal communication with a specific political party and characterising that party's event in positive terms.

In our view, this goes beyond merely informing residents of a municipal service delivery activity. It creates the reasonable perception that an official municipal communication platform was used to promote or endorse a political event and, by implication, the political party responsible for that event.

7. Additional information

The concern raised is not directed at the City's obligation to clean public spaces. We recognise that the City has a responsibility to maintain public facilities irrespective of who uses them.

Rather, our concern is twofold:

Firstly, the fact that municipal resources were required to clean up after a political event that allegedly left the Union Buildings in a poor condition.

Secondly, and more importantly, that an official City communication was drafted in a manner that appears to promote or favour a political party through its wording, colour scheme and presentation.

Municipal communication platforms must remain politically impartial and should never create the impression that the City endorses or affiliates itself with any political organisation.

The attached communication does precisely that.

Requested outcome

In light of the above, we respectfully request that the Office of the Chief Whip and/or any other authorised body and/or person to investigate:

1. Whether the wording of the communication complied with the City's obligations of political neutrality.
2. Whether the use of the EFF's distinctive colour scheme and the reference to a "successful public EFF event" [sic] constituted inappropriate political messaging on an official municipal platform.
3. Whether the publication complied with the City's communication policies and the constitutional obligation requiring a politically impartial public administration.
4. Whether any corrective or disciplinary measures are warranted to prevent similar incidents in future.
5. Whether the repeated publication of official municipal communication material on the MMC's personal public "X" profile is consistent with the City's

communication policies, Code of Conduct and constitutional obligation of political impartiality.

6. Whether adequate controls exist to ensure that official municipal communication products are not used in a manner that creates the perception of promoting the personal or political profile of any elected office bearer.

7. Whether there were unreasonable misuse of the City's resources.

8. Additional supporting evidence demonstrating a pattern

Subsequent to our initial correspondence, we identified further material published on Councillor Obakeng Ramabodu's public X (formerly Twitter) profile.

Copies of these publications are attached as Annexures B to M.

The attached material reflects a consistent pattern in which official City of Tshwane branding, communication templates and municipal visual identity are repeatedly used in conjunction with the MMC's personal public profile to publicise his activities, programmes and achievements.

- The publications include, amongst others:
 - Union Buildings Oversight Programme.
 - Andries Tatane Campaign activities.
 - Winterveld Service Delivery Programme.
 - Service Delivery Scouting Feedback.
 - State of the City Address highlights relating to Waste Management.
 - Re A Spana Campaign achievement.
 - Illegal Dumping Clearance statistics.
 - Landfill and Buy-back Centre initiatives.
 - Informal Settlement Cleaning initiatives.
 - Building Internal Capacity programmes.
 - Sweeping and Waste Truck procurement announcements.

While the City is fully entitled to communicate municipal programmes and service delivery initiatives, the concern is that these official municipal communication products appear to be systematically disseminated through the MMC's personal political platform in a manner that may blur the distinction between official government communication and the personal or political promotion of an elected office bearer.

Viewed together with the communication attached as Annexure A, these publications appear to demonstrate a recurring pattern rather than an isolated incident.

For this reason, we respectfully request that the investigation not be limited to the communication attached as Annexure A, but that it also consider whether there is a broader practice of using official municipal communication products, branding and resources in a manner consistent with the constitutional requirement that public administration remain politically impartial.

We trust that the additional information provided satisfies the City's request for particulars and enables a full and objective investigation.

We request your urgent acknowledgment of receipt of this information. Furthermore, we expect feedback on the outcome or progress of the investigation within seven (7) working days from the date of this correspondence. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated, and we trust that the necessary steps will be taken without delay

Yours faithfully,

Llewellynn Hemmens

District Coordinator: Greater Pretoria North: Community Structures

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