

Knysna municipal manager, Dr Sitembele Vatala placed on precautionary suspension

Following a special council meeting today, Knysna municipal manager, Dr Sitembele Vatala, was placed on precautionary suspension as a result of allegations levelled against him. Deputy Executive Mayor Cllr Aubrey Tsengwa said that all Councillors voted in favour of his suspension. “Council will appoint an independent investigator within 7 days to probe the allegations and the municipal manager will be on suspension for the duration of the investigation. The investigator must submit its findings to the municipal council within 30 days.”

Tsengwa said the investigator will take an in-depth look into the allegations brought against Dr Vatala. “The municipal manager’s precautionary suspension was for the protection of all parties and to ensure an unbiased investigation without any influence from the parties involved.”

Tsengwa concluded by saying that it is important to note that Dr Vatala has not been charged with any misconduct at this point in time. “Dr Michelle Gratz, former municipal manager of Mossel Bay Municipality has been appointed as the acting municipal manager in the interim.”

“I want to assure the public that that the investigation will not influence service delivery and the day to day running of the municipality. The Knysna Council has acted with the well-being of the Municipality as our first and foremost priority. We have confidence in the ability of Dr Gratz to steer the administration during this time.”

ENDS

Knysna Municipality Communications Department
P O Box 21, Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa
Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6430 (direct)
e-mail dnkume@knysna.gov.za