

STAN WALLACE

6 October 2016

Dear Stakeholders, Partners and Friends

RE: STATEMENT ON MY SUDDEN DEPARTURE

I would in the first instance like to apologise for issuing this statement now only. Unfortunately, my departure was so sudden that I had time to clean up my office only.

As you might know I have reached the age of 65 and in terms of the relevant regulations an appointment of a Municipal Manager older than 65 can subject to certain conditions and processes be made with the approval of the Minister of COGTA and on the recommendation of the local MEC only.

The candidate for such a position also have to meet the so called Minimum Competency Requirements. It is a course prescribed by National Treasury. I have completed all of the prescribed modules more than a year ago and has since been waiting for the results. During June and after some of my assignments went missing at the offices of the Service Provider and had to be re submitted the Training Service Provider confirmed that I have been declared competent but that the Local Government Seta still had to verify their results before I could be declared fully competent. As in the instance of the 65 year condition the Council could also in this instance apply for a departure approval.

Initially the Mayor considered the possibility of extending my contract for another five-year term subject to obtaining departure approval from the relevant Minister on the recommendation of the MEC of Local Government. It was however then realised that before such an application could be made the post of MM had to be advertised in the first instance and that such an application could be made only should a suitable candidate not be found. Council then resolved to apply for departure approval for a three-month extension period only and which would have given the Council enough time to complete the recruitment process.

The HOD of Local Government however informed me and the Mayor during a discussion with him that the MEC would not be prepared to support such an application on an ad hoc basis. He suggested that the Municipality should rather allow my contract to expire and then to appoint me as Acting Municipal Manager for a period of not more than three months. Such an arrangement was acceptable to the Mayor but he was requested that this advice he gave us should just be confirmed in writing before the next Council Meeting and which was scheduled to take place last Thursday. The letter reached the TWK on the Wednesday before the Council meeting only and neither the Mayor or myself was at the office when the letter arrived. I had time to study the letter on Thursday morning only and just before the caucuses meetings would commence. The particular letter however stated only what we already knew namely that the MEC was not prepared to support a departure application and which would have enabled the Council to extend my contract. It however did not address the possibility of me being appointed in an acting capacity. In order to obtain clarity, I phoned the HOD and asked for clarification in the presence of the whip of the ANC and the Speaker. He confirmed his previous opinion namely that I can be appointed in an Acting capacity after my contract has expired. Based on such advice Council resolved on Thursday to appoint me in an acting capacity. On Friday morning at 6h30 the HOD however phoned me and advised me that a written objection was received during the night and which claimed that I have misled Council and that an unlawful decision was taken. I was later in the day informed by such a department that it actually now agrees that the Council Resolution was unlawful.

I pointed out to the particular HOD that it was not me who advised Council and that it was in fact on his advice provided during a telecom with inter alia representatives of both political parties that Council acted. It was later established that the person who wrote the particular e mail, used a false name and a free Russian based e mail service.

The long and short of this is that I decided not to make it difficult for Council and immediately informed the Mayor that I was no longer available to act in such a position.

My contract accordingly expired on 2 October 2016 and because I was in Cape Town on the 30th September dealing with the land grab issue in Grabouw, I did not have time to return to and clear my office before my contract expired.

I was prepared to finish a number of outstanding matters pro bono but unfortunately my Deputy Director in my office was instructed in writing to return my computer to the IT Department. I have since reported this to the Mayor.

I am mentioning this because I would not like to leave you with the wrong impression.

I can assure you that my relationship with the TWK Council is still healthy and I am not blaming my employer for anything that has happened. My journey in service of the TWK and its communities will remain the high light of my professional career. I have been able to form fantastic friendships and partnerships and without the support and cooperation of Stakeholders like yourselves I would not have been able to achieve the little bit I was at the end able to achieve.

I intend to now pursue a career as consultant and hopefully I will be able to add some value in such a capacity.

I would like to wish you well and thank you for your contributions in making the TWK one of the best places to live, play and work.

Regards

Stan Wallace