



MERA FONG CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 NOVEMBER 2025

MERA FONG CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY RESPONDS TO MISLEADING CLAIMS BY THE GREATER FOCHVILLE WATER CRISIS FORUM

The Merafong City Local Municipality has noted with serious concern a media release issued on 12 November 2025 by a group called the Greater Fochville Water Crisis Forum. The statement contains several false, misleading, and defamatory allegations directed at the Municipality, its leadership, and the legal proceedings currently before the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria.

For the record, the Municipality approached the Court on 9 November 2025 seeking an interdict to prevent certain individuals from unlawfully obstructing the delivery of water to the residents of Kokosi. The matter, which remains urgent, was heard in open court and postponed to 13 November 2025 to allow the respondents to file their papers. It was subsequently adjourned due to procedural issues raised by the respondents' legal representative and will be re-allocated to a new presiding judge. Furthermore, the Court directed the Municipality to file an affidavit clarifying specific procedural aspects of its initial application.

The Municipality wishes to emphasise that it has appointed a reputable law firm from its official panel of attorneys to handle this matter, thereby refuting any insinuations or claims that question the legitimacy of its legal representation.

Over the past months, the Merafong City Local Municipality has consistently kept residents and stakeholders informed through public notices, media statements, and community engagements regarding the ongoing water supply challenges arising from Rand Water restrictions and infrastructure limitations. Any suggestion that the

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Municipality has failed to consult or has avoided accountability is false, unfounded, and misleading.

The Municipality strongly condemns the personal and politically motivated attacks directed at the Municipal Manager, Mr. Dumisani Mabuza. Mr. Mabuza initiated the High Court application in his capacity as the accounting officer, acting in the best interests of the community to ensure uninterrupted water delivery to Kokosi residents through water tankers. Allegations that he and the Executive Manager for Energy Services, Mr. Gubevu, are sourcing water tankers from service providers in Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal due to their provinces of origin are entirely baseless and malicious. Such claims are divisive and promote tribalism, which has no place in the governance of the Municipality.

The Merafong City Local Municipality remains committed to transparency, lawful governance, and constructive engagement with all bona fide community structures. Residents are urged to rely solely on official municipal communication channels for accurate and verified information.

The Municipality reaffirms its dedication to restoring order, ensuring the continuous delivery of water services, and protecting municipal infrastructure and personnel from obstruction, intimidation, and the spread of misinformation.

Issued by:

*Merafong City Local Municipality
The Office of the Executive Mayor*

Date: 14 November 2025