



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

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City decries abuse of Legal Processes

The Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Cllr Kabelo Gwamanda, was this morning made aware of an attempt by the Sherrif of the Court to effect an arrest on the City Manager of Johannesburg in relation to a matter that involves a resident of the City and a disputed utilities account.

This legal dispute emanates from a dispute on the rates owed to the City by the said resident and the corrective steps undertaken to rectify same.

However, the Warrant of Arrest was found to be defective and erroneous and as such could not legally be executed. Also of concern, was the attempt to execute the warrant at the Private Residence of the City Manager, undermining his rights and that of his minor children and family.

Given that the matter arises out of the official capacity of the City Manager and his official responsibilities, it ordinarily follows that any such action, were it legal and just, should've been undertaken at the known business address of the City and not at a private residence.

“The City Manager has been the target of incessant harassment by certain political actors utilizing the courts to compromise and prevent him from exercising his duties.”

“This attack on his person and character has now been orchestrated to embarrass and target him and his family and to create a public perception that the City Manager is a suspect in a criminal matter.”

“Suspicious leaks to the media and subsequent articles have also been used to further this narrative and the City takes a cautious and dim view of this abuse and ill-intent” said Mayor Gwamanda

The City has instructed its legal team to immediately lodge an urgent application to the Court to stay the execution of the warrant and will seek to prevent any further abuse of the legal system to harass officials of the City in the manner in which the City Manager has been targeted.

“Equally, the City endeavours to resolve any rates and utility account disputes in an amicable, transparent and cooperative manner with the affected clients to avoid unnecessary and protracted litigation. In this regard, we urge residents to always utilise the available dispute resolution mechanisms which have proved to be effective in assisting residents with billing queries and complaints” added Mayor Gwamanda.

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