PROVINSIALE TESOURIE • PROVINCIAL TREASURY • UNONDYEBO WEPHONDO

Verwysing Reference Isalathiso

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Navrae Enquiries Imibuzo

G Paulse



TREASURY CIRCULAR MUN: 05 OF 2009

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THE MAYOR, DRAKENSTEIN MUNICIPALITY: MS C MANUEL
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THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, DRAKENSTEIN MUNICIPALITY: DR S KABANYANE
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  THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, BITOU MUNICIPALITY: MR L NGOQO
THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY: MR J DOUGLAS
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, CITY OF CAPE TOWN: MR M RICHARDSON THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, WEST COAST DISTRICT: MR J KOEKEMOER THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, MATZIKAMA MUNICIPALITY: MR LJ BRUWER
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THE HEAD: BRANCH GOVERNANCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT (MR TC ARENDSE) (ACTING)
THE HEAD: PUBLIC POLICY SERVICES (MR A PHILLIPS)
THE HEAD: PUBLIC FINANCE (MR H MALILA) (PRO TEM)
THE HEAD: FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE (MR TC ARENDSE)
THE HEAD: ASSET MANAGEMENT (MR TD PILLAY)
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (MR A GILDENHUYS)
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THE SENIOR MANAGER: ACCOUNTING SERVICES: LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MS N OLIPHANT)
THE SENIOR MANAGER: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (MR B VINK)
THE SENIOR MANAGER: INTERNAL AUDIT: G & A CLUSTER (MS B CAIRNCROSS) THE SENIOR MANAGER: INTERNAL AUDIT: SOCIAL CLUSTER
THE SENIOR MANAGER: INTERNAL AUDIT: ECONOMIC CLUSTER (MR J RADEBE)
THE SENIOR MANAGER: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
THE SENIOR MANAGER: BUDGET MANAGEMENT (MR PP PIENAAR) (ACTING)
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THE SENIOR MANAGER: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (GROUP ONE) (MR G PAULSE)
THE SENIOR MANAGER: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (GROUP TWO) (MS N VAN WYK) (ACTING)
THE SENIOR MANAGER: PUBLIC FINANCE POLICY RESEARCH AND MODELLING (MS A PÍCK) (PRO TEM)
THE SENIOR MANAGER: IMMOVEABLE ASSET MANAGEMENT (MR NB LANGENHÔVEN)
THE SENIOR MANAGER: MOVEABLE ASSET MANAGEMENT (MS N EBRAHIM)
THE SENIOR MANAGER: SUPPORTING AND INTERLINKED FINANCIAL SYSTEMS (MR A BASTIAANSE)
THE HEAD: OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY (MS J DAVIDS)
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THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR

MASTER RECORDS OFFICIAL: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES IN THE WESTERN CAPE

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this circular is to inform municipalities of the initiatives of National and Provincial Treasury to assess and address the skills gaps that currently exist in Budget and Treasury Offices (Chief Financial Officer's team) within municipalities.
- 1.2 Furthermore, this circular aim to inform municipalities of the upcoming activities as well as expectations related to this initiative.

2. Background

- 2.1 Section 34(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No. 56 of 2003 [MFMA] in regulating co-operative government states as follows:
 - " 34 (1) The national and provincial governments must by agreement assist municipalities in building capacity of municipalities for efficient, effective and transparent financial management"
- 2.2 Furthermore, the Technical Committee on Finance (TCF) recently identified 16 MFMA Priorities, amongst others and briefly stated, 4 (four) of these priorities relates to:
 - a. Grow graduate internship programme in all municipalities and appointment of skilled personnel.
 - b. Establishing a Budget and Treasury Office with appropriately skilled personnel and the finalisation of skills audits.
 - c. Report and complete skills assessment as required by the MFMA Competency regulations.
 - d. Attend structured and accredited training courses consistent with MFMA Competency regulations.
- 2.3 In order to meet these priorities, Provincial Treasury together with National Treasury has developed an action plan to systematically address the priorities identified.
- 2.4 This circular more so refers to point no. 2.2 (b) above.
- 2.5 An exercise, named "A needs analysis of a Budget and Treasury Office (BTO) in

local Government" will commence in February 2009 and conclude in March 2009. The objective of this exercise is to determine the capacity and the extent of financial management gaps within Local Government Financial Management Divisions or Budget and Treasury Offices as indicated in the MFMA.

- 2.6 The exercise involves the completion of a set of forms, one by the CFO and one by each official reporting to the CFO. The content of these forms will thereafter be captured onto a database that will assist in the analysis to be conducted. The aim is to advise, from the analysis of the data, alternate solutions to areas of concern, inclusive of training and development as well as the recognition of prior learning and experience. The outcomes will also inform the content of the curriculum of the learning programmes as prescribed by National Treasury.
- 2.7 All analysis and results herein needs to be submitted to National Treasury by 31 March 2009.

3. Way Forward

- 3.1 The planned activities around this initiative include the following:
 - Pilot to be conducted in the Central Karoo District (4th February 2008) area in order to prepare Provincial Treasury officials to roll out the process throughout the Province;
 - Sharing of the experiences of the pilot municipalities with all municipalities;
 - Co-ordination and securing of dates with all municipalities for their needs analysis exercise to be conducted;
 - Analysis conducted and remedial recommendations made;
 - Discussions and feedback regarding the results of the analysis; and
 - Monitoring of the corrective or remedial recommendations made to municipalities.

4. Request

4.1 The assistance and support of all CFO's (and all official reporting to the CFO) is requested in order to ensure an effective and efficient expedition herein.

- 4.2 In order to ensure the smooth running of this exercise the following is requested:
 - The staff structure of the BTO (electronic version), inclusive of an indication of vacancies, to be forwarded to Provincial Treasury by no later than 18th February 2009.
 - Information to be forwarded to: mfma@pgwc.gov.za
 - When dates are secured with municipalities to undertake the exercise, all
 officials reporting to the CFO (inclusive of those in satellite offices) need to
 be present in order to complete the requisite forms.
 - Assistance in managing the process of having all officials completing the forms. No faxed copies of forms will be accepted, hence official need to be present to complete and submit the forms.
 - Assisting Provincial Treasury in meeting the deadlines as set by National Treasury.

5. Conclusion

- The *objective* of the exercise is to determine the capacity and the extent of financial management skills of staff within the Local Government Financial Management Divisions or the Budget & Treasury Offices as indicated in the MFMA.
- 5.2 The *outcome* of the exercise is to understand the areas of concern and the extent thereof from the perspective of the staff in the finance office (BTO). The aim is further, to determine from the analysis, solutions to areas of concern, inclusive of training and development and the recognition of prior learning and experience.
- 5.3 Lastly, municipalities will be advised on appropriate, priority corrective measures based on the outcome of the analysis conducted.
- 5.4 Any queries relating to the content of this circular can be addressed with:

Mr GW Paulse Tel. 021 483 6126

Fax 021 483 4411

Email: mfma@pgwc.gov.za

Your co-operation in this regard will be appreciated.

GW PAULSE

SENIOR MANAGER: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

DATE: 06 FEBRUARY 2009