

Municipality on brink of bankruptcy



The Rustenburg City Council in session during a recent meeting.

(Continued from page 1) reserve funds less than R300 million were available at any given time. There is no doubt that the ruling party should take full responsibility for the current situation. "These are desperate times and a turn-around strategy will have to be introduced as a matter of the greatest urgency. The problem however, is that the ruling party has no political will to implement unpopular measures and decisions are postponed repeatedly. "There is a lot of talk but little action, we have a lot of infighting instead of service to our communities. Now is the time for the ANC leaders of Caucus and all its councillors to show their guts and to come up with a turn-around strategy. They must show the courage to pronounce themselves as servants of the community", she said. The Rustenburg Municipality is hampered by non delivery, non implementation and non payment. "The Rustenburg Municipality must get rid of directors and officials who are not doing their work", Councillor Motsi of the ANC agreed. "If the situation is not reversed immediately, our legacy will be that the ANC has managed and governed the Rustenburg Municipality into total bankruptcy, Ms Kühn concluded.

'Gunowners not the enemy'

RUSTENBURG - 'We would have preferred to have commended the Minister of Police for his forward thinking and duty to the public of South Africa but this is not possible in the light of the so-called 'firearms amnesty - these continued threats and disregard for citizens rights. It is a most disturbing trend.' Speaking is a spokesperson of the Black Gun Owners Association of SA (BGOASA). 'The previous, 2005 amnesty was an abject failure in terms of increasing public safety. So claiming that the 2010 'amnesty' will be a great success in fighting crime is unbelievably foolish. The spokesperson further said that the Minister should be taken to task for

persecuting hundreds of thousands of law-abiding citizens by way of commandeering SAPS into harassing them with threats of prosecution, fines and imprisonment for disobeying a highly questionable Law. Especially considering that two separate High Court cases have clearly identified the FCA as unacceptable. 'This is not 'voluntary surrender' of property, it is blatant intimidation and in contravention of the constitution.' **'GOVERNMENT IS DREAMING'** 'BGOASA points out to the Minister that while he dreams of a gunfree society, neither he nor any government in the world has succeeded in removing firearms from criminals

hands. 'Therefore it must be made known to the public that the Minister and SAPS cannot have the public's safety in mind by forcing an already overworked SAPS into fruitless time-wasting interventions that have absolutely no chance of reducing violent crime or increasing public safety, precisely the opposite of both is far more likely.' BGOASA therefore recommends the Minister accept that the current abysmal arrest and

conviction rate of all crime is very much influenced by the expensive time and resource-robbing, wasted effort of government's gun control policy.' 'The South African Gunowner is the street police officer and the public's best friend in crime-prevention, not anyone's enemy. Disarming the victims of crime will only help criminals and further increase violent crime levels in South Africa, of that we are absolutely certain.

Sentenced after 14 years

HARTBEESSPOORT - Three members of a motorcycle group, who attacked and injured visitors at the Tant Malie restaurant in Hartbeespoort almost 14 years ago must go to prison, the Supreme Court of Appeal found on Friday. A fight erupted on 17 June 1996 between a group of motorcyclists and other patrons at the restaurant, which escalated into several other fights involving about 30 people.

On Friday, the SCA dismissed the appeal of three men, out of seven, who appealed their convictions and sentences. The appeal of the four other men succeeded and their convictions and sentences were set aside. The appeals of Johannes Christian (JC) le Roux, Gerhardus and Louis Rossouw were dismissed. Le Roux, who had a security firm at the time, was originally sentenced to six years imprisonment, of which two were suspended for five years.

State assets under fire

(Continued from page 1) and asked the court to declare their appointment to be lawful. The Pretoria High Court late last month ruled that the allegations against the companies were based on suspicion and that the probe was still ongoing at the time. Kaulani Civils had subsequently attached the department's assets after the department had argued that its budget had been depleted and that it would "suffer irreparable harm" should it be required to pay. Matshube Mfoloe, spokesperson for the department told the Rustenburg Herald on Tuesday that the department was in the process to effect part payment, following an order by the court that the outstanding amount be paid within 48 hours. However, he emphasised that the forensic investigation into the awarding of the tenders is still continuing. He added that the department has negotiated a settlement with Moseme Construction on February 22 to complete construction work on the R565 by May 21, "on a without prejudice basis", pending finalisation of the investigation currently underway and

undertaken by a number of state security agencies. Meanwhile, serious questions are being asked whether construction work on the Koster-Lichtenburg road will be completed in time for the Soccer World Cup starting in three months' time. The road forms part of a major route connecting Mafikeng with Rustenburg and should see increased traffic during the tournament. * The department confirmed on Wednesday morning that payments totalling R70.5m due to the two road construction companies were processed on Tuesday afternoon. A sum R35 million was apparently paid to Kaulani Civils approximately after 13:00 on Tuesday and proof of payment was faxed to the offices of Kaulani and to the offices of their firm of attorneys. Mfoloe said that the department was experiencing difficulties in paying the amount of R35.5m payable to Moseme Construction, as it was discovered that the bank account provided, was inactive and the transaction could not go through.

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