

20 October 2021

**MECSU NOTES THE FINDINGS OF PUBLIC PROTECTOR ON SENIOR UNQUALIFIED OFFICIALS RUNNING THE DITSBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES AS THEY PLEASE**

We, Municipal Employees & Civil Servants Union (MECSU), are deeply concerned about the appointments of officials without qualifications in senior positions in the country's municipalities. Public Protector findings about Ditsobotla Local Municipality's appointees with or without matric in senior positions are a true reflection of a real situation across the majority of the country's municipalities. The scandal in the Ditsobotla Local Municipality is just a tip of an iceberg. We are failing to accept the reality of having municipalities which appoint unqualified officials in senior positions while there are suitable candidates with requisite qualifications. In some instances, these senior positions would be advertised for compliance purposes, while in other instances, positions would be filled without advertising. As MECSU, operating in local government space, we cannot fold hands and look at unqualified incumbents occupy senior strategic positions while incumbents with requisite qualifications are trapped in junior or subordinate positions taking orders from unqualified senior officials, who merely get appointed by virtue of their proximity to certain families, friends and relatives in positions of authority.

We send a stern warning to those unqualified officials holding senior positions in our country's municipalities that they must either step down or face the music.

We also want to categorically send a clear message to those HR officials who disregard HR Recruitment policies of municipalities and provide jobs to families, friends and relatives that the time for job for pals is over. Those officials who get involved in recruitment scandalous acts will be dealt with very harshly because they know better what it means to flout HR Prescripts.

*Issued by:*

*MECSU Secretariat*

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