



MEDIA STATEMENT

A 35 year-old alleged fraudster in court for fraud and Impersonating Elundini Municipality Manager



Alleged fraud suspect Wisani Gybon Mogale

The bids were also uploaded and advertised on the municipal website in order to be accessible to the general public. After the closing date of the tender, the municipal manager received a call from one of the bidders alleging that there is a gentleman who is impersonating him asking for money before a letter of appointment could be issued. Fortunately the bidder refused to pay the money after he was not convinced that the person he was talking to was a Elundini municipal manager. Other two (2) bidders were also conned by the same man under false pretense and they ended up paying **R150 000** and **R80 000** respectively. The total amount defrauded stood at **R230 000**.

Eastern Cape South African Police Services Commercial Crimes unit arrested a suspect, Wisani Gybon Mogale who is alleged to have defrauded three business people so far, extorting money under false pretence. He appeared in Mthatha Magistrate's Court on the 29 August 2019 facing a charge of fraud and Impersonating Elundini Local Municipality (ELM) manager. The case was postponed to 5th September for a formal bail application.

The 35 year-old male alleged fraudster first briefly appeared at Seshego Magistrate Court and the case was transferred to Maclear Magistrate Court 28 August 2019 as one of the amounts was deposited in this court's jurisdiction.

The arrest follows after the incidents that happened in May and June 2019 at ELM in Maclear, after construction tenders for paving were advertised by this local municipality. -



Elundini Local Municipality Manager Kayaletu Gashi

In a statement the Municipal Manager Khaya Gashi has advised that where an improper approach as outlined above is made to a potential bidder, the bidder is at liberty use the municipality's anonymous tips off facility to register such unethical conduct as follows: -

**Anonymous hotline: 0800
117 844**

Free fax: 0800 007 788

SMS : 32840

Email: elundinitipsoff.com

**Free post: Free post KZN138,
Umhlanga Rocks, 4320**

He warned: "We also take this opportunity to issue an advisory to bidders that the payment of bribes to secure contracts from the municipality is as unethical as the solicitation of the bribes by the unscrupulous person/s, fraudsters and/or syndicates. This amounts to an improper conduct of influencing a decision on the award of a tender and is an offense in terms of the prevention and combating of corrupt activities Act 12 of 2004".

Gashi said any bidder/s who has paid a bribe will not only be excluded from the bidding process but will be blacklisted and recorded in the register of tender defaulters administered by the National Treasury. When blacklisted, a company and all its directors may not do any business with the state for a period not less than 10 years.



EC Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Liziwe Ntshinga on her visit to Elundini Municipality

Eastern Cape Provincial Commissioner Lt Gen Liziwe Ntshinga added: "Corruption and fraud within our local Municipalities do not only rob state coffers of financial resources but also deprive the general public services as money planned for service delivery is misdirected and stolen. Our Commercial Crime Unit must be commended for the good work thus far. We are looking forward to a successful prosecution and conviction, working hand in hand with the National Prosecution Authority and the courts,"

END