

MUNICIPALITY VERIFY OVER 1000 EMPLOYEES

MOKOPANE: Mogalakwena Local Municipality has begun the process of verifying over 1 000 employees on the personal and salary system (PERSAL) to eliminate possible ghost workers.

A research has shown that municipalities such as Mangaung municipality, Greytown's Umvoti municipality and Msunduzi municipality in KwaZulu-Natal have been found to have between 50 to 100 ghost workers, amongst others in the past few years.

The verification process of over 1000 employees which began on the 22 June is aimed at establishing the authenticity of employees against the PERSAL system has been concluded today and those who have not availed themselves today the municipality will withhold their salaries. The municipality is currently spending R29 million per month on salaries.

The Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Hendrick Ngoepe said, "The staff verification project is one of the expenditure control measures aimed at ensuring the credibility of the salary municipal budget. The principal objective of this annual exercise is to ensure that public funds are paid to existing personnel who are contributing to the functioning of the municipality."

"We will look into a number of employees who availed themselves for verification to our payroll to determine if there are no discrepancies and if there are any, investigations will be effected," said Mr Ngoepe.

This excise is in line with Section 62 (1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) 56 of 2003, The accounting officer of a municipality is responsible for managing the financial administration of the municipality, and must for this purpose take all reasonable steps to ensure-

- (a) that the resources of the municipality are used effectively, efficiently and economically;
- (b) that full and proper records of the financial affairs of the municipality are kept in accordance with any prescribed norms and standards;
- (c) that the municipality has and maintains effective, efficient and transparent systems.