

Statement by DA Constituency Heads for George, Dr Mimmy Gondwe and Geordin Hill-Lewis:

DA welcomes Minister's further investigation into George Municipality

The Democratic Alliance (DA) welcomes yesterday's announcement by the Western Cape Department of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning that it will conduct a further investigation into allegations of maladministration, fraud and/or malpractice levelled against George Municipality.

The announcement is testament to the fact that the DA remains committed to instilling good governance in those municipalities in which it governs.

The announcement also underscores the DA's principled "zero tolerance" stance towards allegations of corruption and maladministration across all spheres of government. Such allegations should be investigated without fear or favour.

According to the statement by the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Anton Bredell, the latest investigation will be conducted on the basis of section 106(1)(b) of the Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000), read together with section 7(1)(a) of the Western Cape Act.

Further, according to the statement by the Minister, after the allegations in question were brought to his attention and carefully assessing them, he took the decision that the allegations warranted further investigation.

The scope of the investigation by the Department will include, inter alia, the George Integrated Public Transport Network (known as Go George) and irregular appointments at the municipality.

The DA is confident that the scope of the investigation by the Department will in the words of the Minister leave "[n]o stone...unturned" and provide some closure and finality around the allegations levelled against the municipality.