

Incorrect information regarding MEC Sa'ad Cachalia's expressions during the media conference (22 January 2008)

The MEC for Provincial Treasury, Sa'ad Cachalia has been grossly misrepresented through an article crafted by Mr Nyambeni Mandiwana on the Review dated 29 January 2008.

The media fraternity in our country continues to carry a vital responsibility in educating our populace through its readership whose minds get shaped by the messages conveyed. The media also continues to be an important instrument in ensuring that there are no deviations from facts.

As Limpopo Provincial treasury (LPT), we have no intentions to undermine these. We also have no intentions to generalize in questioning the capacity of the media as a fraternity or Review newspaper as a publication. Ours is to highlight the inaccuracy that, latterly, seems to characterise articles published by the afore-mentioned journalist through the Review newspaper about LPT.

The article seems to suggest that the MEC was evaluating the various government departments' capacity to deliver or even evaluating their performance on service delivery.

Let us put the record straight.

The objective for that media conference (held on the 22nd January 2008) was to point out the Auditor-General's report for 2006/07. It is for this reason that the Auditor-General (National), Mr Terence Nombembe and his team were present.

MEC Cachalia, based on the Auditor-General's report, did not speculate but was very specific and precise about what the cause for the qualifications is. To quote MEC Cachalia verbatim, "The major causes for the qualification were the gaps that exist on **Asset Management**." It must also be emphasised that the MEC, in unison with the Auditor-General, indicated that the areas that caused the qualified reports were not adverse as they were mainly limited to challenges on asset management. That is why there is not a single department that has received a disclaimer, which is marked improvement in the overall public finance management by various provincial government departments and institutions. It is also completely untrue that the MEC referred to the Department of Roads and Transport as "the most affected".

The MEC also stated that LPT will assist various departments in the formation of Departmental Audit Committees.

These expressions, together with corrective measures, formed the focal point of the MEC's statement to the media.

It is important that, in all engagements with the public, these erroneous reports are corrected.

Please find a copy of the media statement (22 January 2008) as read out word-for-word by the MEC.

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