



PUBLIC EYE ONLINE

DEPARTMENT RUBBISHES COPE'S CLAIM

By Tselane Moiloa

BLOEMFONTEIN – The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) have refuted claims by the Congress of the People (COPE) that it hasn't done anything to deal with corruption at the embattled Nala Municipality.

A COPE Member of Parliament (MP), Papi Kganare, last week told parliament that by not following through with recommendations given by auditing firm, KPMG to deal with corruption at the municipality, the MEC Olly Mlamleli was supporting and covering up corruption.

The spokesperson for Free State COGTA, Senne Bogatsu, said that measures have indeed been taken to sort out the mess that is Nala.

In her correspondence with the paper, Bogatsu said: "All of the recommendations were accepted and are in the process of implementation at various stages of implementation pending the nature of the recommendation. Some recommendations will take longer to implement than other however the bottom line is that they are all approved for implementation by Council."

Bogatsu also refuted the claim that there is no evidence of action, if any, taken against municipality officials who were fingered in the report to have used government funds for their own personal use.

"The MEC, or the department has not hidden any action taken against the municipality and the matter has been in the public domain. There is no basis for COPE's claim," she said.

As part of efforts to bring the municipality back into shape, an interim municipal manager Chris Mokomela was appointed. However, residents of the towns making up the municipality, Bothaville and Wesselsbron, were against the appointment of a municipal manager deployed by the municipality. Bogatsu said the relations between the community and the municipal were on the mend.

"Much improvements have been made e.g. the billing for services has been reinstated and the bills went out on 1 March. There have also been improvements in systems in managing transport to reduce petrol costs as well as curb the abuse and theft of fuel. The systems include tightened approval for trips by the municipal manager and Council.

"The municipality is also in constant communication with the community for buy in regarding changes that the municipality is implementing. There is also more stability in the municipality," she said.

[Source: <http://www.publiceyenews.com/2012/03/19/departement-rubbishes-cope%E2%80%99s-claim/>]