

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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Municipalities fail audits

When the Tshwane Metro receives an unfavourable audit that includes financial misconduct and showing that it is in the red - in the midst of what appears to be one of the biggest spending sprees, by its Executive Mayor, in the history of the city, red lights begin to flicker." Says Rev Theunis Botha Leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

"The Executive Mayor of Tshwane, Kgosi Ramagopa, appears to be on a quest to establish some kind of a legacy for himself; and perhaps even considerably more, that is going to cost the tax payers of Pretoria, tens of billions of Rand.

"This apparent ego trip comprises of the following recently approved and proposed expenditures: The restoration of Munitoria, with the tax payers portion having increased from R2.8 bn to R10bn under Ramagopa; the down-town rejuvenation project at R6bn; the renovation of Shubert Park with costs estimated at just under R1bn; a multibillion rand student accommodation project: and to top it all, twenty five percent of the total electricity expenditure for the next eight years for the implementation of 'smart- meters', contracted to a company, without being put out to tender, at an estimated value of R28bn.

"Add to this, the future cost of repayment of bonds issued by the council, and it becomes clear that the present Mayor does not deal in millions but rather billions of rand. Of course it is not his own money he is so liberally spending, it is yours, the taxpayer of Pretoria.

"Finally it is interesting to note from the Auditor General's report that apparently all Metros are in the red, in other words spending more than they have, and that includes the CapeTown Metro."

Metro's faal oudits

"As die Tshwane-metro 'n negatiewe oudit op die lyf loop, wat finansiële wanbestuur insluit en wat toon dat dit in die rooi is – te midde van wat na een van die burgemeester se grootse vlae van uitgawes in die geskiedenis van Pretoria lyk – begin die waarskuwingsligte flikker." So sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

"Die uitvoerende burgemeester van Tshwane, Kgosi Ramagopa, skeep blykbaar die een of ander soort nalatenskap vir homself, iets wat die belastingbetalers miljarde rande uit die sak gaan jaag.

"Die egoïstiese handeling sluit die volgende in wat onlangs goedgekeur is: Die restourasie van die Munitoria wat onder Ramagopa se leiding van R2,8 tot R10 miljard belastingbetelaersgeld gestyg het, die verjonging van die middestad van R6 miljard, die herstel van Schubertpark teen 'n geraamde koste van net minder as R1 miljard, 'n multimiljard rand studente-akkomodasieprojek, en om alles te kroon, 25 persent van die elektrisiteitsuitgawes oor die volgende agt jaar vir die instelling van "slim-meters" terwyl die kontrak aan 'n maatskappy toegeken is sonder dat tenders aangevra is. Die beraamde koste hiervan is R28 miljard.

"Voeg hierby die toekomstige terugbetaling van aangifte wat deur die munisipaliteit uitgereik is, en dit word duidelik dat die huidige burgemeester hom nie met miljoene rande ophou nie, maar miljarde. Dit is natuurlik nie sy eie geld nie, maar dié van Pretoria se belastingbetalers.

"Dit is ten slotte insiggewend dat, volgens die verslag van die ouditeur-generaal, al die land se metro's in die rooi is. Hulle spandeer dus meer as wat hulle besit, en dit sluit Kaapstad in."