



Democratic Alliance Johannesburg Media Statement Democratic Alliance Councillor Dr Kevin Wax

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The Legislature continues to mismanage funds by splurging on functions

“Report after report, we wrestle with the same issues in the Legislature,” says Democratic Alliance Councillor Dr Kevin Wax.

In the recent Council meeting various concerns came to light out of the 2nd Quarter Legislature Report: There is a clear mismanagement of functions and resources.

The DA believes it is evident that the Legislature is inflicted by a serious lack of leadership and management skills; proof of this is bulleted below:

- Between 18 September and 31 October 2014, four workshops were held by various directorates within the Legislature that amounted to more than R930 000.
- A Legislature strategic workshop/ team-building exercise for 185 participants was held on 12 December 2014 at a cost of R141 930.
- This amount rockets to over R300 000 if one takes into account the corporate shirts ordered at a staggering cost of R860 per shirt bringing the total cost for this one day team-building exercise to R1600 per head.
- R2.9 million was spent on the allocation of loco allowances to staff members including those who do not qualify.
- The inability of the Legislature management to resolve this issue has resulted in serious expenditure irregularities that must be addressed urgently.
- Uncontrolled overtime costs for the Legislature is a major concern with Stakeholder Relationship Management (SRM) responsible for 82.3% of total costs.
- The issue of poorly executed rental agreements continues unabated with neither JPC nor the Legislature management taking responsibility for the issue.
- The result is that Ward Councillors have in the past been locked out of their offices and there is no doubt that this will happen again in future.
- Invoices are not processed timeously, many exceeding 30 days, thereby contravening Section 65 (2) (e) of the MFMA.
- Only 18% (R158 000 of R859 000) of the budget was spent on repairs and

maintenance resulting in large-scale dysfunctional equipment.

Dr Wax says that as custodians of the oversight model in the City, the Legislature should be at the forefront of corporate efficiency.

“If the Legislature continues to fail, there will be very little chance of instilling and maintaining a commendable culture of effective service delivery across the City.”

“Imagine an effective, efficient and accountable management team in the Legislature that subscribes to fiscal discipline and operational excellence. It is only a DA-led government that can achieve this,” he says.

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