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MEDIA STATEMENT

Qumrha; 13 November 2026 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarity on media coverage pertaining to suspended employee

Great Kei Local Municipality wishes to provide clarity regarding the disciplinary and legal proceedings following media enquiries received from News24.

The Municipality confirms that one of its employees was placed on suspension following allegations of misconduct levelled against him/her. Consequently, internal disciplinary proceedings were instituted in accordance with the applicable labour legislation and disciplinary procedures. These proceedings remain ongoing and have not yet been concluded.

While the internal disciplinary proceedings were underway, the employee referred a dispute to the South African Local Government Bargaining Council (SALGBC) for arbitration. The Bargaining Council subsequently issued an arbitration award directing the Municipality to reinstate the employee. In addition to the reinstatement, the arbitration award directed the Municipality to pay the emplyee a once-off amount equivalent to one month's salary.

Following the issuance of the arbitration award, the employee applied for its variation, contending that the Commissioner had omitted or overlooked certain aspects of the matter. Although the application for variation was granted, the Municipality maintains that the variation ruling did not clearly specify which provisions or clauses of the original arbitration award had been varied.

The Municipality subsequently approached the Labour Court to challenge the matter. The Labour Court ruled in favour of the Municipality, thereby paving the way for the continuation of the internal disciplinary proceedings, which remain unconcluded.

Notwithstanding these developments, the employee proceeded to seek enforcement of the monetary component of the arbitration award, specifically the once-off payment equivalent to one month's salary. In this regard, the employee instructed the Sheriff to execute the relevant portion of the award against the Municipality.

Upon becoming aware of these developments, the Municipality referred the matter to its legal representatives for appropriate intervention and guidance.

The Municipality wishes to place it on record that no municipal assets have been attached by the Sheriff.

It is important to emphasise that the matter remains subject to ongoing disciplinary and legal processes and has therefore not yet reached finality.

Great Kei Local Municipality remains committed to upholding the rule of law, procedural fairness, sound labour relations and the responsible management of public resources. The Municipality will continue to ensure that all matters relating to this case are handled through the appropriate legal and administrative processes, while respecting the rights of all parties concerned.

The Municipality further wishes to assure the public that it remains guided by the applicable legislative framework and the advice of its appointed legal representatives.

Given the gravity of this matter and the fact that proceedings remain ongoing, any further enquiries requiring detailed legal clarification may be directed to the Municipal Manager.

The Municipality remains committed to transparency and accountability while ensuring that ongoing proceedings are not compromised.

The contents of the statement is attributed to the Municipal Manager and all enquiries should be directed to him as per the details above.

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