

# GRAHAMSTOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Secretary – 8 Durban Street, Grahamstown, 6140

Telephone: 046 622 5687

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Resolution of 6 June meeting of GRA :

The Committee of the Grahamstown Residents Association (which insists on the strictest neutrality in party politics, and is respected by all parties for this stance) wishes to express its grave concern over the discrepancies between Treasury recommendations and the intended expenditure of the Makana Local Municipality in its latest budget proposal.

The Committee finds:

a) a 14.5% increase in overall expenditure  
as against the National Treasury's recommendation of 8.5%

and

b) a 46% expenditure on salaries and allowances  
as against the National Treasury's recommendation of 35%

excessive and unacceptable. The public consultancy process that we as an Association actively monitor and participate in was flawed, as salaries were not discussed or disclosed.

The Committee further notes an increase of 40% in the salary of the Municipal Manager (making it R850 000 per annum) and increases of 33% in the salaries of the four senior Municipal ('Section 57') employees (making each of their salaries R650 000 per annum.)

While not denying the necessities of salary increases, the wisdom of increases of such a magnitude is queried.

The addition of two new senior Municipal employees (at R700 000 and R650 000 each) and the elevation of five councillors to full time status (making six, including the Mayor, out of a Council of 24 members!) at an extra cost of over R1 million per annum, the Committee feels is unnecessary. Besides the expense, this can lead to a dichotomy in the management of the municipality: the Municipal Manager and his team; the Mayor and his team.

Such dual control is not conducive to good governance and will certainly be a hindrance to tackling the very urgent problems of service delivery which should be the first priority in the Makana Municipality.

TREAS 6.07LH

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Management Committee: Prof. Dominic Thorburn (Chairman), Prof. Don Hendry (Vice Chairman), Prof. Roux van der Merwe (Hon. Secretary), Mr. David Hodgson (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. Danny Biermann, Ms. Jane Dalton, Mr. Roger Embling, Mrs. Roswitha Hobson, Mr. Willem Makkink, Mr. Kit Pitman, Prof. Doug. Rivett, , Mr. Johan van der Walt, Mr. Clive Whitford.