



NEW MAYOR TAKES REIGNS

Tladi Moloi

SARAH MOLELEKI, a former mayor of the then Phuthaditjhaba Town Council, has been announced as the new Maluti-a-Phofung mayor following Mathokoana Mopeli's sudden resignation. Before taking up her new position, Moleleki had been a chief whip at the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipal Council. Her appointment was announced at a special municipal council sitting on Friday.

Speculation is still rife that Mopeli was forced to jump as she is thought to have close links to the so-called "Regime Change" faction. The faction seeks to have Ace Magashule, ANC chairperson and Free State premier, and his administration ousted from government.

Mopeli, who had been at the helm for about 18 months after she took over from Dr Balekile Mzangwa, resigned from the seemingly hot seat a fortnight ago.

Her resignation was announced by the ANC provincial secretary, William Bulwane, on national radio as he cited ill health as the main reason for her departure.

While Mzangwa has since become Thabo Mofutsanyana District mayor, under which Maluti-a-Phofung falls, Express Eastern Free State (EFS) understands Mopeli will now apparently take up a position in the Free State Legislature, a move which, if true, would contradict the assertion that she had resigned because of ill health.

Further fuelling speculation that Mopeli was pushed out, is the abrupt and vague nature of her resignation letter which is very brief and mentions nothing of the supposedly poor state of her health. Express EFS is in possession of a copy of the unprofessional-looking and hand-written letter which reads: "Kindly be informed that I, P. Mopeli, am resigning from the position of the executive mayor and councillor of the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality with immediate effect.

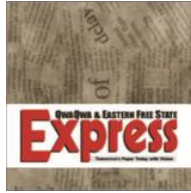
"Thank you for the opportunity I have been afforded to work with all the councillors and the support which was always forthcoming."

Speaking to Express EFS immediately after the special sitting, Moleleki said she was happy with her new position and that she would strive to make the municipality one of the best. She said she would make solving the ongoing electricity crisis her first priority as she had already identified it as one of the major challenges the municipality was facing.

"My appointment came at a time when people needed services and I'll make sure that I attend to all problems. I am going to start where the former mayor left off. Working with ward councillors and NGOs will make our job easy," she said.

The ambitious Moleleki said she was aiming to get a clean audit report for the municipality in 2014, and added that she would soon announce her mayoral committee members (Mayco).

"I am committing myself, therefore, to service with my collective Mayco. We shall need to strengthen the audit unit and the audit committee by ensuring that their quarterly reports have satisfactory responses to the findings and recommendations," she said.



She promised to work and continue with her predecessor's work and fast-track programmes contained in the IDP.

All the opposition parties in the municipal council have promised to support and work together with the new mayor.

The former coordinator of the municipality's community development workers was also appointed as the new chief whip at the same sitting.

[Source: <http://152.111.11.6/argief/berigte/volksblad/2012/11/07/QQ/1/QQTMOPOLI.html>.]