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## MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release  
*Saturday, 23 November 2024*

### **POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY REJECTS FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT FESTIVE LIGHTS SPENDING**

Polokwane Municipality has noted with concern the misleading information circulating on social media, specifically in the poster claiming that the municipality intends to spend R15 million on artists for the planned Festive Lights. This misinformation is spread by individuals who seek to divide the community for their own political gain.

The municipality wishes to set the record straight and provide clarity on this matter.

### **FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT A R15 MILLION BUDGET FOR ARTISTS**

The municipality categorically states that it is **not spending R15 million on artists** for this event. The artists who perform during the Festive Lights event are supported by **social partners and sponsors**, not municipal funds. It is disheartening to see false information being spread, which aims to mislead and divide the community.

Furthermore, the municipality clarifies that the costs associated with the whole Festive Lights event will never amount to R15 million, as alleged. Such claims are not only false but also undermine the commitment of Polokwane Municipality to fiscal responsibility and transparency.

### **MUNICIPAL COMMITMENT TO WATER SERVICES**

While hosting such events, Polokwane Municipality prioritizes basic service delivery, with **water provision at the top of municipal agenda**. Significant strides have been made to address water challenges, including:

- Drilling and equipping boreholes in various areas to supplement supply.
- The commissioning of Seshego Water Treatment Plant and the construction of Sand River Plant to augment water sourced from Lepelle Northern Water.
- Joint initiatives with the Department of Water and Sanitation and Lepelle Northern Water to improve water infrastructure and ensure a sustainable supply to all residents.
- The municipality is in the final stages of launching a service delivery app that will allow residents to directly interact with the municipality whenever they encounter service

delivery challenges to ensure faster and more effective responses to community concerns.

Polokwane Municipality acknowledges water challenges faced by communities and remains committed to resolving these issues as a matter of urgency.

## **THE PURPOSE OF FESTIVE LIGHTS EVENT**

The annual Festive Lights celebration is a cherished tradition for Polokwane Municipality, aimed at strengthening **social cohesion, unity, and togetherness** among Polokwane residents. This event creates an opportunity for the community to celebrate the festive season in a shared space, promoting goodwill and a sense of belonging. It is a platform for showcasing local talent and boosting the city's vibrant culture.

The municipality emphasizes that the **Festive Lights event will proceed as planned**, as it remains an integral part of bringing joy and unity to our community during the festive season.

The municipality urges the individuals behind the misleading poster to act responsibly and verify information before disseminating it. Spreading false claims undermines the efforts of the municipality and sows unnecessary division. The municipality remains open to engagement and encourages constructive dialogue to address concerns rather than resorting to misinformation.

Polokwane Municipality will continue to work tirelessly to serve its residents and uphold its commitment to improving the quality of life for all. The municipality further appeals to residents to unite in building a stronger, more cohesive community.

***End!***

## **ISSUED BY POLOKWANE MIUNICIPALITY: COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING UNIT**

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