

THE UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



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MUNICIPAL BEREAVEMENT POLICY

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1. DEFINITIONS

The specific meaning of key words is as defined in the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 75 of 1997 in these definitions, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- 1.1 Designee - A person appointed or designated as the Head of the Department for an interim period.
- 1.2 Manager- A person appointed as a head of a Department in the Municipality
- 1.3 Mourner- A person attending a funeral service or memorial service

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To provide a framework for management of bereavement processes for a deceased municipal Councillor and employee.
- 2.2 To make a provision for establishment of a sustainable mechanism for provision of support to the family of the deceased Councillor or employee of the municipality.
- 2.3 To provide a framework for cost management and recovery arising out of the support to bereaved family.
- 2.4 To promote good fellowship during the time of need to the bereaved family.
- 2.5 To facilitate extension of condolences to the bereaved family of the deceased person.

3. APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

- 3.1 This policy will apply to all temporary, contract, trainee and permanent employees of the Municipality.
- 3.2 Provisions of this policy will be binding to Council, Councillors and Management of the Municipality.
- 3.3 Application of this policy may not be extended to non-employees of the Municipality.
- 3.4 This policy will apply to Councillors as well.
- 3.5 This policy may be applied to trainees attached to the municipality as determined by the Municipal Manager.

4. PRINCIPLES OF THIS POLICY

- 4.1 This policy is designed to be used as a tool for comforting / consoling the bereaved families.
- 4.2 This policy is designed to enhance the content of our social culture in respect of mourning.
- 4.3 The application of this policy shall be balanced with the interests of the Municipality.
- 4.4 The operation of this policy shall not interfere with nor interrupt the smooth rendering of services to the community.
- 4.5 This policy shall be applied in such a way that, there is a minimum work stoppage resulting from a need to pay last tribute to the deceased during normal working hours.

5 ARRANGEMENT OF MEMORIAL SERVICES AND BEREAVEMENT VISITS

- 5.1 The Municipality shall arrange a memorial service for paying the last tribute to any person referred to in Clause 3.1 of this policy.
- 5.2 Such memorial service shall be held within a period of seven working days or not later than 10 working days after the death of the employee or Councillor, subject to the availability of the family.
- 5.3 The memorial service shall be held in the last one and half hours of the normal working hours if it is held during the week or not on a public holiday at a suitable venue within the area of jurisdiction of the Municipality.
- 5.4 The refreshments may be arranged only for the family members only in the memorial service.
- 5.5 The costs of refreshments may be defrayed from the entertainment vote or any other suitable vote chosen by the Manager of the affected department.
- 5.6 The Human Resources Division in conjunction with the Department in which the bereavement has occurred shall be responsible for arranging the memorial service.
- 5.7 A preacher of the family's choice or the municipality's choice shall be arranged by the Municipality at no cost.
- 5.8 Employees and /or Councillors who wish to pay a visit to the bereaved family may be allowed to do so during the last two working hours of normal working time if feasible, but if not feasible during the normal working hours should such a visit occur on a working day, within a radius of 300 km from the location of main Municipal Offices, the hours shall be determined by the Municipal Manager.
- 5.9 The transport costs for transportation of the family to the Memorial Service will be defrayed from the Normal transport budget of the Department concerned.

6. FUNERAL ATTENDANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 For all funerals, the Municipality shall send an official delegation of not more than 3 employees determined by the Municipal Manager and a vehicle load of combi or quantum size will be released for other employees/Councillors on a first come first serve basis.
- 6.2 Other employees/Councillors willing to attend funeral of colleagues and Councillors will be dealt with according to 6.5 and 6.8.
- 6.3 In the event of death of an employee or Councillor, the Municipality shall avail transport for the mourners from the municipality to attend the funeral service within the borders of South Africa on a shared cost basis.
- 6.4 The mourners shall organize their own driver at no cost to the Municipality if using a municipal vehicle or a vehicle hired from a registered and recognized car rental company.
- 6.5 The mourners shall pay 40% of the total costs of transport for the funeral service and the remaining 60% will be covered by the municipality.
- 6.6 If a municipal vehicle is used, the transport costs will be calculated according to applicable tariffs for use of privately owned vehicles, issued by the National Department of Transport.
- 6.7. If a hired vehicle is used for funeral attendance purpose, the costs will be shared on a basis of total costs charged or incurred including or excluding other costs like fuel, oil and toll fees, if these are excluded from the contract.
- 6.8The amount of money payable by the mourners for the funeral attendance transport costs will be deductible in full from the payroll within one month after the funeral attendance.

7. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 7.1 If Councillor's or staff member's vehicle is used for transport purpose, that person will be reimbursed according to the subsistence and traveling allowance policy, (the Clause with regard to official kilometers of 350 km or 500 km is not applicable in this regard) subject to Clause 6.3.
- 7.2 If a privately owned vehicle belonging to a member of the public, other than a bus, taxi or hired vehicle has been used, the applicable tariff set out in the Travel and Subsistence allowance policy will be used.
- 7.3 No cost of accommodation will be incurred in respect of any funeral related arrangement by the municipality.
- 7.4 No cost of food or drinks will be incurred in respect of any funeral related arrangements by the municipality.
- 7.5 There will be no special budget set aside by the municipality specifically for bereavement or funeral service related expenses.

- 7.6 All funeral attendance and memorial service related costs will be will be defrayed from the respective entertainment , subsistence & traveling allowance and fuel & oil votes of the Department in which the deceased person was attached or serving.
- 7.7 The employees and Councillors of the Municipality attending a memorial service or funeral service shall be regarded as on official duty for the purpose of the Workman's Compensation Act.
- 7.8 No person shall be paid a part of a or full wage for attending a funeral or memorial service or for paying a bereavement visit even if such person was the driver of the vehicle used to attend any of the mentioned occasions.
- 7.9 No Councillor or employee shall claim overtime nor time off for any time spent in attendance of any bereavement related occasion.
- 7.10 No claim for any damage arising out of use of a privately owned vehicle for attendance of any bereavement related occasion will be made to the Municipality.

8. COMMENCEMENT OF THIS POLICY

- 8.1 This policy will come into effect on the date of adoption by Council.

9. INTERPRETATION OF THIS POLICY

- 9.1 All words contained in this policy shall have an ordinary meaning attached thereto, unless the definition or context indicates otherwise.
- 9.2 Any dispute on interpretation of this policy shall be declared in writing by any party concerned.
- 9.3 The Office of the Municipal Manager shall give a final interpretation of this policy in case of a written dispute.
- 9.4 If the party concerned is not satisfied with the interpretation, a dispute may then be pursued with the South African Local Government Bargaining Council or Arbitration

10. PERMANENT/TEMPORARY WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF THIS POLICY

- 10.1 This policy may be partly or wholly waived or suspended by the Municipal Council on a temporary or permanent basis after consultation with Management and Trade Unions.
- 10.2 Notwithstanding clause No. 10.1 the Municipal Manager may under circumstances of emergency temporarily waive or suspend this policy subject to reporting of such waiver or suspension to Council and Trade Unions.

11. AMENDMENT AND/OR ABOLITION OF THIS POLICY

11.1 This policy may be amended or repealed by the Council after consultation with Management and Trade Unions.

12. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

12.1 Violation of or non-compliance with this policy will give a just cause for disciplinary steps to be taken.

12.2 It will be the responsibility of all Managers, Supervisors, Executive Committee and Council to enforce compliance with this policy