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Bergrivier Municipality

BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY INTRODUCES THE NEWLY APPOINTED CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

14 FEBRUARY 2024

"As accountants, we believe that the heartbeat of any organisation is the finance department, so I treat it as such".

So says Pieter Willem Erasmus, the newly appointed Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Bergrivier Municipality, who assumed office as of 01 February 2024.

Erasmus went on to say that if the finance department does not execute its functions properly, it will limit the Municipality's funds to do the work as stated in Section 152 & 153 in the Constitution of South Africa. "My role as head of department is to provide the necessary financial guidance and support to the other directorates, and in so doing, making a difference within the communities we serve. It brings me great joy to assist officials to drive service delivery to exceptional standards".

Erasmus (41) was born in Cape Town, but moved to Merweville in the Central Karoo, where he grew up and lived for most of his life.

He obtained a B-Tech Degree in Internal Auditing from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) in 2006. A year later (2007), Erasmus began working for PFK South Africa, an audit firm in Cape Town, where he gained three (3) years' work experience in their tax department. He later moved to a different department within the firm, to hone his craft in external auditing and soon after completed his articles through the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). Erasmus is currently enrolled for an Honours Degree in Public Administration at Stellenbosch University, however, his main goal is to obtain a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

In 2013, due to personal reasons, Erasmus had to leave Cape Town and move back to his hometown in Merweville, to support his family with their farming operations. He then started to work for a consulting firm in the surrounding area, while co-managing the farm until March 2017. Later that year, Erasmus landed a job at Prince Albert Municipality as the first Accountant in their Budget and Treasury Office, which led to their first ever clean audit.

In 2020, Erasmus became the Chief Financial Officer at Living Lands, a Non-profitable Organisation, which specialises in farming activities in the Baviaanskloof and Langkloof areas. "Their biggest contributor of donations came from the Netherlands and I really enjoyed the collaboration between the sponsors and farmers. I realised that my passion, other than farming, resides within the public sector," said Erasmus.

In March 2022, he became the Chief Financial Officer at Prince Albert Municipality at the age of 39, however, ended his chapter in the Central Karoo two years later after accepting an opportunity at Bergrivier Municipality to be their new CFO.

Erasmus still enjoys being part of a farming community, however, his first priority is and will always be his family. Outside of his busy schedule, he loves spending quality time with his wife and two daughters. "I grew up on a farm so I regard myself as fortunate, hence me being somewhat active in that sector. I also enjoy being active and use it as a stress reliever," said Erasmus.

Bergrivier Municipality wishes him all the best luck in his new position as Chief Financial Officer. We know you will be a massive asset!



Pieter Willem Erasmus (41).

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