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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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COMMUNICATION SERVICES

REMARKS BY PREMIER L.K MOKGOSI
ON THE OCCASION
OF THE
MINISTERIAL SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION OUTREACH PROGRAMME
IN
NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
DATE: 22 JANUARY 2025
VENUE: SEASONS CONFERENCE VENUE
TIME: 09:00

Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Dickson Masemola,

MEC for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements,
Mr Oageng Molapisi

MEC for Provincial Treasury, Ms Kenetswe Mosenogi

Executive Mayors and Mayors present here today,

Speakers, MMCs, Chief Whips and Councillors present here today,

Provincial Chairperson of SALGA in North West, CLLR Khumalo Molefe,

Heads of Departments present here today,

Chief Executive Officers of State Owned Enterprises,

Leaders of Faith-based organisations,

The North West House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders,

Bagaetsho Dumelang,

Programme Director, I wish to express my profound gratitude as I stand before this important gathering which is primarily aimed at assisting our municipalities to find solutions to a variety of challenges stifling their constitutional mandate and developmental needs.

Deputy Minister, I need to out rightly state that the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and in particular **Section 152** of the Constitution implores municipalities to provide democratic and accountable government through sustainable provision of goods and services.

Moreover, the Constitution induces municipalities to commit to good governance practices such as accountability, transparency as well as responsiveness by being development orientated through working with citizens to find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs as well as improving their quality of life.

Programme Director, all these serve as a Constitutional imperative for the efficient running of municipalities in that this sphere of government is strategically positioned to reverse the injustices of the past which among others are as a consequence of separate development and Apartheid spatial planning.

In the past thirty years we have made significant progress in turning the tide against the skewed allocation of resources in our communities by the Apartheid government.

To this end we have increased provision of housing by **46 %** and from 1996 to date over **85.1 %** of households in our province live in formal dwellings.

In addition to this, more than **85.6 %** residents of North West have access to piped or tap water in their dwellings and the General Household Survey shows that access to improved sanitation is standing at **78.3 %** since the advent of democracy.

Despite these achievements our municipalities are inundated with both political and administrative challenges which have fermented an unpleasant environment which continues to impede on our efforts to render services to our people.

Announcing audit outcomes of municipalities in the last financial year, Auditor General Tsakani Maluleke, maintained; municipalities in our province have shown little improvement in their audit outcomes, with none of them receiving a clean audit.

Of concern is a lack of tangible financial management systems which have led to **irregular expenditure, unfunded budget and delays in paying service providers** among others.

Compounding these challenges is a lack of oversight and weak leadership.

Programme Director, our municipalities in Ngaka Modiri Molema Region mirrors a similar trajectory.

None of these municipalities received a clean audit outcome with Ditsobotla and Ratloug Municipalities receiving disclaimers for two consecutive financial years.

Ditsobotla, Ramotshere Moiloa, and Tswaing currently under mandatory intervention in terms of Section 139 (5) of the Constitution read together with Section 139 of the Municipal Finance Management Act.

Bagaetsho, however, there is a glimmer of hope in relation to Ngaka Modiri Molema, Mahikeng and Ramotshere Moiloa, and I believe that given the systems that have been put in place through various interventions by MEC Molapsi and MEC Mosenogi they will move from qualified to unqualified audit opinion.

These measures are of critical importance in that as we continue to implement our service delivery programmes by all spheres of government in particular municipalities it is essential to emphasise the shared responsibility of various levels of governments in optimizing the utilization of our limited resources.

Deputy Minister, provision of water in our communities remains our apex priority and we have thus far invested over **R45 million** rand in various water and sanitation projects in communities in all our local municipalities in Ngaka Modiri Molema District.

In alleviating challenges related to water infrastructure which continues to be a source of service protests in communities like Kgosi Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, we will need a budget of about twenty billion rand.

MEC Molapisi will give a detailed description of these projects in his presentation.

These projects will culminate in give impetus to our infrastructure projects and development plans.

I have no doubt that these intervention measures will create much needed employment in our communities and address the scourge of unemployment in our province, through our Local Economic Development initiatives.

Bagaetsho, in furthering our commitments to address challenges faced by municipalities we need to re-emphasize the role of our citizenry and ensure that they play an important role in this process.

Our province's economic landscape has been unfavourable for some time and beckons us to take decisive action, demanding a swift and resolute response and municipalities are strategically positioned to drive this developmental trajectory.

Deputy Minister our commitment to elevate service delivery must find expression, on efforts to strengthen our collaboration with traditional leadership institutions throughout our province.

We remain resolute in our deliberate act of aligning our ward-based planning and governance system with the strategic initiatives of our Traditional Councils.

This concerted effort must reverberate with our unwavering commitment to the improved delivery of services in our province.

I thank you!