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Finance, Economy & Enterprise Development
North West Provincial Government
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Media Statement

North West Finance Annual Report Tabled before Provincial Legislature

The North West MEC for Finance, Economy and Enterprise Development Wendy Nelson tabled the 2013/14 Annual Report for Department of Finance before the Provincial Legislature last week.

Engaging the report, which reflected that the department achieved a clean audit opinion, Members of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Affairs, Finance, Economy and Enterprise Development emphasized that although the department achieved clean audit, mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that the entire North West Provincial Administration achieves the same audit opinion in the near future.

The Committee called attention that the Department of Finance needs to effect measures to make departments, municipalities, state owned entities and financial management appointed service providers at all levels of the provincial administration accountable for the negative audit opinions achieved. They indicated that some departments do not seem to achieve clean audit which have negative implications on service delivery and this cannot be left as is. The committee further raised concerns on the non transfer of skill to municipalities by some appointed consultants.

MEC Wendy Nelson indicated that the department has come up with measures to ensure that clean audit opinion is achieved throughout the provincial administration in future. She indicated that there are challenges that would need to be tackled in order to realize the clean audit opinion, and this would call for a necessary change in the way that government does its business. She said that financial management turnaround strategy has been put in place to ensure that municipalities are capacitated and the municipal support programme is synchronized with the start of the financial year to ensure that budgeting and compilation of annual financial statements are done properly. She further indicated that going forward; the department will terminate services of appointed consultants that fail to transfer skills as contained in the contracts.

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The Department further informed the Committee that focus was shifting from heavy reliance on consultants to decentralization of municipal support services. The department is currently looking into urgently capacitating the municipal support programme. This would ensure that head office based intervention is dealt away with and that officials and retired financial experts are based at each municipality,+explained MEC.

With effect from the current financial year, consultants that are not meeting the service level agreement conditions of skills transfer will be terminated,+said MEC Nelson.

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