

Mabe urges municipalities to adhere to legislative framework.

Finance MEC Louisa Mabe has urged municipalities to work in an integrated manner and adhere to Municipal Financial Management Act (MFMA) to improve service delivery. Mabe said this during the visit by the select Committee on Finance last week. The committee met with sixteen municipalities in the province as part of its ongoing interaction to municipalities to monitor collaboration and coordination pertaining to the provision of municipal services and support given to municipalities.

During the interaction with municipal officials including Mayors, Municipal Managers, Chief Financial Officers and senior managers, Mabe gave a stern warning to the municipalities to remedy their financial situations as it impacts and hamper provision of services which then results in service delivery protests by disgruntled communities. . She said the only way to go is strict adherence to Municipal Finance management Act.

Mabe said municipalities can also better the services if they work in an integrated manner and utilize the skills within their respective municipalities before they could outsource services to consultants. She cited Moses Kotane and Madibeng local municipalities as examples and said these municipalities are in the mining areas and could approach the mines and the interns for their expertise to improve capacity in their municipality.

“Working in an integrated approach will assist these municipalities because community members, stakeholders and non governmental bodies cannot resist assisting the municipalities. Service delivery is their concern and I am sure they will be more than happy to give a hand to their respective municipalities to improve services to communities.

“The municipalities must be conscious when utilizing public funds and strive for value for money. It saddens my heart to learn that there are municipalities that could not pay employees’ salaries and instead used Municipal Infrastructure grant to pay the officials. This really shows that; that particular municipality is in a state of disarray.

However, the MEC said the Provincial government will continue to assist municipalities and provide support to them until there is stability and capacity.

”It is indeed regrettable, but it still remains our responsibility as provincial government, never to be impatient in explaining the facts no matter how long it takes, to explain how things should be done in a proper way.

“The North West Provincial Treasury has deployed officials to struggling municipalities to assist with financial management skills and the new budget format. The department will from time to time conduct oversight visit to check if such support produce the desired results, said Mabe.