



finance

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Media statement

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Political oversight committee on Municipal Financial Management Improvement support programme

Mafikeng: The department of Finance held a two day session on 20 and 21 August with municipalities to check progress registered on the implementation of the first phase of Municipal Management Improvement Programme.

The project, which was launched on the 21st June this year, is intended at assisting municipalities to regain clean financial governance abilities.

The MEC for Finance Paul Sebegoe has made a commitment during the inception of this project that his department will be hands-on throughout the process by monitoring the progress of the programme.

The first phase of the project is mainly to assist and prepare municipalities in a quest to submit the annual financial statements before the Auditor General on time. Municipalities are expected to submit their financial statements before the Auditor General on August 31, and also submit the financial statements for the previous outstanding years.

The second phase which will provide technical support will focus on the quality of reports to be produced by the municipalities.

Sebegoe said they expect all municipalities to comply and submit financial statements on time.

During the gathering, reports from different municipalities were interrogated and inputs were provided to ensure that all municipalities submit their 2011/12 Annual Financial Statements before the Auditor General.

Sebegoe encouraged Mayors and councillors to be the drivers of this initiative and provide support to the officials. He said politicians must make sure that they are involved in the day to day running of the municipalities and not only rely on reports provided to them.



Sebegoe said municipalities must rebuild their public perception and regain their confidence from the communities as service delivery recipients.

“Municipalities must do the right things, acknowledge their faults and commit to correct the situation by adhering to the prescribed legislations and provide quality services to the people”, said MEC.

Identified municipalities have signed commitment letters in June as a pledge for support towards this initiative by the department.

Sixteen (16) service providers have been identified to provide technical assistance as per the needs of every municipality. These service providers have commenced work in July are expected to deliver accordingly and adhere to the timeframes.

The MEC said other problems which impacts negatively on the audit reports of the municipalities is incapacity in the areas of asset management and supply chain.

“It will be in the best interests of communities that we serve that municipalities must train officials on asset management and commit to come up with recovery plan to strengthen the municipality day to day running”, said Sebegoe.

Mayors of various municipalities expressed their gratitude towards the programme and have committed to be involved in the day to day running of their institutions. The mayor of Moretele Local municipality Cllr Sello Lehari said his council could not waste opportunity like this and have started with their schedules on the project.

“As a municipality we cannot miss the opportunity to turn things around in our municipality and have started with internal arrangement on how to best tackle this programme. We call weekly meetings to check the progress registered in every aspect of the programme. The council wants to move with speed to achieve clean audit and has ordered officials not to wait for the last day to submit their financial statements”, said the mayor.

