



finance

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**Media
Statement**

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**To News Editors
Journalists**

North West Finance MEC clarifies management of the D-Account

The Department of Finance needs to clarify its role in terms of the management of the D-Account as per recent media reports.

“The province inherited the function of maintaining accounting records related to tribal authorities from Bophuthatswana Era as per the Tribal Act which guides the day to day running of the tribal authorities. The department’s role in this regard is to record the receipts and payments which goes through the bank accounts of tribal authorities after these transactions have been validated by both the tribal authorities and Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

To date all necessary recording of all transactions approved and validated by both the traditional councils and the department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs have been completed and the department is not aware of any missing millions as reported. Both the traditional council’s and Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs have not brought any matters which indicate that millions of monies have not been accounted for”, said MEC Sebegoe.

All transactions are initiated by traditional council’s and these transactions are approved by the department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs after verification and release of funds by Treasury, which in turn will be forwarded for recording to the Department of Finance.

Sebegoe said at no stage of the payment process does the department of Finance approve payments initiated by any tribal authority due to the current institutional arrangements. Finance also invest surplus funds of individual tribal account and distribute interest accordingly. It should be noted that the department of Finance had in July this year distributed interest to all tribal

accounts. The department further provides necessary reports to each tribe to inform them about balances and transactions.

It must be noted that the department provided a detailed transactions report to the Bapo Ba Mogale Tribal Authority in July 2013 and would continue to provide the information requested and any misappropriation of funds if any, would be investigated by Government.

In addition to systems in place, Bapo Ba Mogale Tribal Authority also maintains regular cash book to account for all transactions. The department took initiative to reconcile Bapo Ba Mogale's books with departmental records and found no differences.

The Provincial Accountant General explained the above-mentioned role of Treasury to the Committee and including measures that are being undertaken by government to ensure that the statements are prepared and audited. The Department of Finance, Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs and Provincial Auditor General are working together on proposal to ensure that tribal authorities' funds are accounted for.

The Department subscribes to good governance, clean administration and its objectives are intended to ensure accountability of limited government resources

End

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