



Finance

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Media Statement

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Municipal Financial Improvement programme okayed by municipalities

Rustenburg: The MEC for Finance Paul Sebegoe today launched Municipal Financial Improvement plan that aims at providing support to municipalities that struggle with financial management.

The Objective of the three phase plan, says Sebegoe, is to good governance and administration at both provincial and local level.

The launch of the programme is part of ongoing efforts to confront the state of poor financial management in most municipalities in the province.

Sebegoe urged all attendants from various provincial municipalities to take stock of the current state of financial management in municipalities and reflect on whether they are closer to achieving the goals of the 2014 clean audit project.

“This programme is not only mandatory to the department but remains key towards the attainment of the 2014 clean audit and improving the financial management situations in municipalities. We must endeavour to find permanent and everlasting solutions if we are to turn the tide against the state of decay in municipalities and this remains without a doubt a mammoth task ahead all of us,” said Sebegoe.

Sebegoe said the high level of vacancies in other municipalities remains a serious concern as it impacts on its capacity to deliver quality services to communities.

He said the department will continue to exercise its oversight functions without fear or favour to monitor budget spending in municipalities and provide support where there is lack of capacity.

“We will do this to ensure that there is a drastic change in the financial management of municipalities with the sole aim to ensure that public funds are well spent and accounted for”, stated Sebegoe.

He announced that the department has appointed professional service providers in the field of financial management who will be deployed to assist municipalities in this area. The service providers will also transfer skills so that when they leave the municipalities will be in a position to continue on their own.

He expressed his dissatisfaction about people who are appointed in key financial positions when they do not have the requisite qualifications and experience.

He concluded by appealing to municipalities cooperation to ensure that the programme yields the desired results.

“The success of this programme depends largely on the political will of all political leaders. The Department of Finance therefore appeals to other key stakeholders to forge partnership with the department to own this programme and make it a success in the interest of improved service delivery,” said MEC Sebegoe

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