

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**TO : ALL MEDIA**

**RE : “ CITIZENS MUST ACCEPT ACCOUNTABILITY”, MEC**

“Citizens, public servants, educators and members of civil society should accept accountability, transparency and good governance responsibilities that accompany effective and efficient implementation of budgets allocated to them. Programmes and projects alone will not lead to socio-economic development. Becoming a real player in ensuring that budgets are not used fraudulently requires that we all become vigilant as far as the use of government resources and funds are concerned”, MEC Modiselle.

Speaking from her office, MEC Modiselle said that failure by members of civil society and public servants to report misuse of state assets such as vehicles, fraudulent use of government funds etc, will have enormous negative impact on the state coffers, if amounts budgeted for specific services are exceeded as a result of such improper use of state funds. State resources ought to be used for the purposes for which they are meant. It therefore calls for vigilance on our part, to report misuse of state vehicles to stop incurring unnecessary debts from repairs, purchase of petrol, etc. Unless we are able to curb wasteful expenditure, we will not be able to deliver services needed by poorer communities for the improvement of their quality of life”.

“Unless there is dramatic decrease in improper payments, such as false or fraudulent claims, payments made to ‘ghost employees’ or contractors who fail to complete contracts awarded to them and abscond with huge amounts of money, government will be unable to fully alleviate poverty especially, in our poorer rural communities since money meant for such projects have been misused”, MEC Modiselle.

MEC Modiselle called on all public servants, educators, business and members of civil society to be very alert and bring to the attention of government any malpractices regarding the use of government resources and funds. “To become a player in the 22006/07 budget simply requires that we all join hands with government to ensure that no one gets away with wasting government resources, concluded the MEC.