

## DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Immediate Release

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## COGHSTA MEC BASIKOPO MAKAMU CELEBRATES IMPROVEMENTS IN LIMPOPO'S MUNICIPAL AUDIT OUTCOMES

MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Mr Basikopo Makamu has praised the steady improvements in the municipal audit outcomes of the 27 municipalities in Limpopo Province in the 2021/22 Financial Year.

The overall audit performance of municipalities in the province has been on an upward trajectory as a result of the intensified support provided by stakeholders made up of the departments of CoGHSTA, Limpopo Provincial Treasury and the Provincial SALGA.

Most notable of the achievement of the year under review is that two (2) municipalities, namely Capricorn and Waterberg District Municipalities, attained Clean Audits, an achievement that had not been realized in the past five financial years.

In addition, Bela-Bela Local Municipality improved from a Disclaimer audit outcome to a Qualified Audit outcome, leaving only one municipality, Mopani District, in the dreaded Disclaimer Audit status.

"It is important to recognize these favorable achievements were realized despite the delays in the finalization of the 2020/21 external audit and prior to that the challenges that came along with the COVID-19 pandemic. The roles played by the political leadership, amongst others, chairing the Audit Steering Committee meetings has yielded positive results in ensuring that issues raised by AGSA are adequately addressed," says MEC Makamu, adding that in a province such as Limpopo, this continued improvement is unprecedented.

However, MEC Makamu says that there is still a need to strengthen efforts to move municipalities that have remained stagnant for more than five (5) years on Unqualified audit opinion to Clean Audit Status. He says this is doable and the higher goal that the provincial government would want to see attained.

"The model that we have implemented to achieve these results was a targeted intervention approach, specific to every municipality's individual challenges through coordinated efforts between CoGHSTA, Limpopo Provincial Treasury and SALGA.

This strategy has proven to be effective, and we will continue to practice it until all our municipalities are no longer found wanting," says the MEC.

The MEC extends his thanks to the administrative staff at COGHSTA, Provincial Treasury, Office of the Premier and all municipalities, including their political and administrative leadership, for the sterling work done.

MEC Makamu reserves his utmost gratitude to Limpopo Premier Chupu Mathabatha for the outstanding leadership and guidance he continues to provide.

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