

**Media Statement on placement of Mogalakwena Local Municipality under
Section 139: 1(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
For immediate release**

18 December 2019

Good day

On Wednesday, the 4th of December 2019, the Executive Council of the province took a decision to place the Mogalakwena Local Municipality under section 139 1(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. This follows the assessment findings made by the department on the Municipality from the 15th to the 21st of October 2019. The challenges in that municipality continue to dominate the public and the media in particular. At the centre of these challenges as revealed by the findings alluded to *supra*, are the following:

- Undesirable situation based on key executive and administrative obligations that the municipality was unable to fulfil which threatened the financial and institutional stability of the municipality;
- Political instability within the municipality characterised by serious infightings amongst council members and officials, compromising the safety of everybody in that municipality;
- The latter has negatively affected the day to day running of the administration affairs of the municipality and thereby affecting delivery of services to the people of Municipality

This situation at this Municipality is inconsistent with the objects of the establishment of Local Government Sphere as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic (Act 108 of 1996) which is:

- To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;

- To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- To promote social and economic development;
- To promote a safe and healthy environment; and
- To encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government

Indeed considering these noble objects, it becomes apparent that this situation is not in the best interest of good governance in particular and the people of Mogalakwena in general.

The MEC for Coghsta Mr Basikopo Makamu, has following the Executive Council decision of the 4th of October 2019, engaged the council of the municipality in all levels.

The decision taken by the Executive Council about the Mogalakwena Municipality means, department will work very closely with the Council to ensure responsibility for the relevant obligations in that municipality to -

- Maintain essential national standards or meet established minimum standards for the rendering of services;
- Prevent that municipal council from taking unreasonable action that is prejudicial to the interest of the municipality and the province
- Maintain economic unity and stability in that municipality

It is our firm view and belief that the decision by the Executive Council will go a long way in addressing the challenges facing this municipality. We call on all stakeholders, Municipal Council and the people of Mogalakwena to work closely with the department during this intervention period.

We are looking forward to working together in bringing stability and normality in the interest of the people of Mogalakwena.

Thank You

Enquiries:

Motupa Selomo: Departmental Spokesperson
Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement & Traditional Affairs

Tel: 015 284 5580

Cell No: 082 717 0342/ 072 481 3617 or

Molebatsi Masedi: Media Liaison Officer

Cell No :066 477 8919/ 083 647 8818