

STATEMENT ON THE UPDATE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LIM 345 MUNICIPALITY

30 May 2017

The plan to establish Vhembe's fourth Municipality has been up and running ever since the 3rd August 2016 Local government elections. The following have been done and achieved as part of the establishment plan of the new Lim 345 Municipality. The Municipal Council was formally constituted on 17 August 2016 with the election of councillors, the Mayor, Speaker and Chief Whip. All councillors have since been inducted and section 79 and 80 committees have also been appointed. Consultation process on the naming of the municipality has been completed and we are currently awaiting confirmation of the gazetting of the name.

So far, Council has adopted the organisational structure of the municipality and a Municipal Manager has since been appointed. The process of filling senior vacancies of managers reporting to the Municipal Manager is underway and is expected to be finalised soon. The Municipality is temporarily housed in the DCO building in Malamulele and already feasibility studies have been undertaken to construct new offices and the council chamber in Malamulele.

These programmes were prioritised in order to comprehend both the establishment and consolidation phases whilst ensuring a rapid mobility to sustainability phase. The Municipality has already started delivering basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity, roads and housing through its three main service points located in Malamulele, Hlanganani and Vuwani. Matters relating to Traditional leadership, revenue management, collection (billing, collections and credit control), secondment, transfer, and recruitment of personnel and establishment of Council Structures and Systems continue to receive attention.

Although some departments are not fully established as yet, service delivery has not been hampered, although there is a need to prioritise the strengthening of the planning department due to a high number of business development applications which the municipality is continuously receiving.

The Municipality has gone a step further to establish Ward Committees in all areas except in seven (7) Wards in Vuwani which are currently affected by demarcation challenges. CoGHSTA as part of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Vuwani is working hard together with other stakeholders to ensure that Ward Committees are finally established in the affected areas.

The IMC on Vuwani has tabled proposals for service delivery which are now being consulted with the relevant stakeholders for implementation. The objective is to ensure that the people of Vuwani receive service delivery and are not disadvantaged whilst the process of engagement on their grievances is underway.

**Issued by CoGHSTA Communication Services
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