

# MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

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## *Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs*

Litiko  
Lekubusa  
ngekubambisana  
netebuholi bendzabuko

Department van  
Koöperatiewe Regering  
en Tradisionele Sake

umNyango  
wezekuBusa  
ngokuHlanganyela  
neeNdaba zamaKhosi

### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **COGTA HELPS MUNICIPALITIES TO ENACT BY-LAWS**

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) hosted a municipal by-laws summit aimed at supporting municipalities to promulgate by-laws and enforce them. The two days summit was held in Middleburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in the Nkangala District. It was attended by Executive Mayors, Speakers, Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees on Policies and By-laws, Municipal Managers, Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) and Senior Officials of municipalities.

During the summit, an assessment of progress made by municipalities with respect to the promulgation of by-laws, related to fire control, Land Use Management, Tariffs, Waste Management, Roads and Storm Water Management, Air quality management, electricity, etc. was made. By-laws and enforcement thereof form part of government's effort to promote good governance. It also forms part of government's initiative to build a responsive, caring and accountable local government.

Delegates at the summit adopted a declaration at the end of the summit to support municipalities for the promulgation of the by-laws. Part of the declaration states the following:

- **Municipalities establish a dedicated unit for personnel to focus their attention on development, publishing and enforcement of by-laws and deal with land invasions timely and decisively as well as imposing fines to people who damage emergency services.**
- **Municipalities must develop their policies together with schemes to avoid situations where commercial activities are undertaken within residential areas.**



- **Municipalities must review their Debt Collection and Credit Control Policies to include processes involved in dealing with Estate accounts and Indigent Owners.**
- **Municipalities are urged to customize the existing Fire Brigade generic by-law to address all the challenges with regards to fire.**

Municipalities are expected to translate the by-laws into indigeneous languages spoken within the jurisdiction of the municipal areas and communicate them through public participation programme as part of educational awareness.

**Issued by: The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs**

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