



co-operative governance  
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Litiko  
Lekubusa  
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Departement van  
Koöperatiewe Regering  
en Tradisionele Sake

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### **MEC FOR COGTA IN MPUMALANGA CONDEMNS VIOLENT PROTESTS IN CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni has condemned the community protests which have turned violent in Diepdale, Mpumalanga. The protesters are demanding the removal of the ward councillor in the area and this led to touching of the community hall that houses disability and youth centres.

Mtshweni says the protests are illegal. "Section 17 of the Constitution makes provision for a demonstration and a picket by the people. However, sub-section 2 (b) prevents incitement of violence. By acting in a violent manner, the protesters in Diepdale have contravened the Constitution. We call for restraint and that any protest must be done within the ambit of the law. The law will take its course against those who act unlawfully," Mtshweni warned.

Mtshweni says the community's demands are being addressed and as such, there is no reason for the protesters to vandalize public and private property. She expressed concern that the protests are a hindrance for the provision of services which the community must benefit from. "We call upon the law enforcement agencies to act decisively against the perpetrators of violence and vandalism. We hope that the law enforcement agencies will help restore order in Diepdale to protect our people against individuals whose desire for lawlessness is a threat to their lives," Mtshweni said.

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