



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No. 6, Ext 2, No. 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Mbombela, 1200, Mpumalanga Province
Private Bag X11304, Mbombela, 1200. Int Tel: +27 (13) 766 6087, Tel: (013) 766 6087
Int: Fax: +27 (13) 766 8252, Fax: (013) 766 8252

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MEC FOR COGTA IN MPUMALANGA CONDEMNS VIOLENT PROTESTS IN DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga, Hon. Refilwe Mtshweni has condemned the community protests which have turned violent in Balfour, Mpumalanga. The protesters are demanding the incorporation of the Dipaleseng Local Municipality into Gauteng. Roads have been barricaded and damage has been caused to private property.

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 Balfour 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 illegally," Mtshweni warned.

The demand for incorporation of the local municipality into Gauteng is cited as the reason for the protest. Mtshweni says the demand for the community is 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.

**Issued by: The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Contact Person: Mr George Mthethwa – 013 766 6572 / 083 302 2774
E-mail: gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za
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