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Litiko Lekubusa ngekubambisana netebuholi bendzabuko Departement van Koöperatiewe Regering en Tradisionele Sake umNyango wezekuBusa ngokuHlanganyela neeNdaba zamaKhosi

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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## COGTA IN MPUMALANGA WELCOMES TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPALITIES

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga welcomes the deployment of fourteen (14) officials, amongst them four (4) young graduates and ten (10) experiential learners with technical knowledge, to various municipalities in Mpumalanga. The municipalities are: Emakhazeni, Nkomazi, Emalahleni, Bushbuckridge, Thaba Chweu and Ehlanzeni District. These officials are trained in the fields of Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Construction Management, Town and Regional Planning by the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA).

MEC for COGTA, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni says the deployment of these officials will strengthen the capacity of municipal technical services in an effort to deliver the much needed basic services such as water and electricity. "This deployment is a major intervention for the effectiveness of municipal technical services that are central to the delivery of water and electrification. It will advance our cause in the delivery of basic services and capacity building as these two areas are amongst the five (5) pillars set out in the implementation of the Integrated Municipal Support Plan (IMSP)," Ms Mtshweni said.

Municipalities in Mpumalanga are struggling to attract scarce skills such as engineers due to their location in rural areas. Ms Mtshweni says the officials are a solution to municipalities that are rurally-based in pursuit of the service delivery goal to increase the number of people with access to water and electricity.

Ten (10) more will be deployed next year.

End.

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