



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Departement van
Koöperatiewe Regering
en Tradisionele Sake

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MEDIA RELEASE

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MEC FOR COGTA IN MPUMALANGA CONDEMNS VIOLENT PROTESTS IN GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga, Mr Speed Mashilo condemned in the strongest possible terms the community protests which turned violent in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. The protesters demanded the removal of the Acting Municipal Manager and the hand over of the power supply function to Eskom. In addition, they demanded a speedy solution to the spillages in Embalenhle outside Secunda. During the protests, a shopping mall, a filling station, a Post Office and delivery trucks were set alight.

Mr Mashilo warned the protesters against criminal action that accompanied the protest. "Section 17 of the Constitution makes provision for a demonstration and a picket. However this should be done within the ambit of the law. We commend law enforcement agencies for taking action against the perpetrators of violence during the protests.

Mashilo says the violent action was unwarranted as the concerns raised are being attended to. The Provincial Government has set aside R53 million to address the spillages in Embalenhle and surrounding areas. The process to finalize the appointment of service providers is being finalized. The electricity grid is being upgraded to address the electricity interruptions. The position for the Municipal Manager has been advertised to fill the vacancy. It is just a matter of time before these concerns are finalized," Mr Mashilo said.

He added that violent protests impact negatively on service delivery and commended law enforcement agencies for acting decisively against the perpetrators. We are satisfied that public order has been restored due to the intervention of law enforcement agencies. Furthermore we call upon the community to exercise patience as the Provincial Government, working with the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is addressing their concerns.

End.

Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

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