



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Koöperatiewe Regering
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MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC MASHILO CONDEMNS AN ACT OF ARSON IN PHOLA'S MUNICIPAL OFFICES

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga has condemned an act of arson in Phola near Ogies in which municipal offices were destroyed on Monday night. Damage worth millions of rands was caused by a group of protesters who set the offices on fire. The local offices of eMalahleni Local Municipality are a point of contact between the residents and local government.

MEC for COGTA, Mr Speed Mashilo expressed outrage for the arson and called for the perpetrators to be brought to book. He added that the municipality has inadequate financial resources to reconstruct the offices and this act set back the progress aimed at bringing government closer to the people. "No legitimate concern can justify this barbaric act. It amounts to a criminal offence and we call on law enforcement agencies to arrest the culprits for the law to take its course", Mr Mashilo said.

He called on communities to use properly structured complaints management mechanisms to express their service delivery concerns. "Government has established the Operation Vuka Sisebente (OVS), a service delivery complaints mechanism. Residents are encouraged to use the war rooms of the OVS for this purpose. The Council of Stakeholders in the war rooms attend to their complaints for a resolution. We have also introduced the Satise Silalele App for communities to use their smart phones for this purpose. We hope the community in Phola will use these mechanisms to get the attention of government rather than revolting to violence," he appealed.

End.

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

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Date: 15 August 2018

