



co-operative governance  
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Samora Machel Building, Ext 2, No. 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Mbombela, 1200, Mpumalanga Province  
Private Bag X11304, Mbombela, 1200. Tel: 013 766 0000, Int Tel: +27 (13) 766 6087, Tel: 013 766 6087  
Tel: 013 766 8252, Int: Fax: +27 (13) 766 8252

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Departement van  
Koöperatiewe Regering  
en Tradisionele Sake

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

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### **MEC MASHILO CAUTION COMMUNITIES AGAINST THE RISK OF DROWNING IN RIVERS AND DAMS**

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga, has called on communities not to risk their lives by swimming in rivers and dams. This follows reported cases in which several people drowned in separate incidents whilst swimming in local rivers and dams between January and Mid-February this year.

Mr Mashilo says these drowning cases are a serious cause for concern. "Our province is experiencing soaring hot temperatures and as such, our communities are enticed to swim in the local rivers and dams to cool themselves off. Unfortunately, some do not find their way back after the swimming expedition. We call on all communities not to expose themselves to the danger of drowning," Mr Mashilo cautioned.

COGTA is responsible for Disaster Management and has established a Disaster Toll Free number as one of the life saving measures. Mr Mashilo appealed to the communities to use the number to report drowning cases. "These drowning cases can be prevented through co-operation between our communities and our government. We call on our communities to call the 0800 202 507 toll free number to save lives. We also call on parents not to allow their children to swim without supervision," Mr Mashilo said.

End.

**Issued by the Department of Co-operation and Traditional Affairs  
Contact Person: Mr George Mthethwa: 013 766 6572 / 083 302 2774  
Email: [vmshabangu@mpg.gov.za](mailto:vmshabangu@mpg.gov.za)  
Twitter: @cogtamp  
Facebook: @mpucogta  
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