



MESSAGE BY MEC FOR COGTA MS. RM MTSHWENI (MPL)

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has obtained a clean audit for the 2013/14 financial year. This is in line with operation clean audit 2014 imperative and President Jacob Zuma's call in which he declared 2014 as a year of clean audits. This achievement can be attributed to a high level of commitment

by the officials in the department. It is also signal enough that the department's internal financial controls and management systems are effective. This achievement is no mean feat and as such will serve as an impetus to improve public perception.

Moving forward, the department is working hard to cascade this achievement to all the 21 municipalities. We have not fared well in relation to the Auditor-General's audit outcomes. Only two of our municipalities have obtained clean audits during the 2012/13 financial year. The municipalities are Steve Tshwete Local and Ehlanzeni District. This is despite a developed turn around strategy and the implementation of audit remedial action.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between COGTA and the Provincial Department of Finance. However, some of the recommendations of the MOU were not fully implemented. As a result of this non implementation, deficiencies exacerbated in terms of the financial management, systems controls and improvement in the audit outcomes.

In this financial year, the Executive Council (EXCO) took a decision that we synchronize our intervention and have a dedicated structure to provide and focus support to our municipalities. An Integrated Municipal Support Plan has been developed and approved by EXCO. This plan is a key element for the municipal clean audit outcomes.

STATS SA recently released the latest figures of people who receive basic services from municipalities. The figures show an increase of people with access to water, electricity, sewerage and sanitation and solid waste management. Mpumalanga came second after the Western Cape with the highest number of people with access to water at 56.3%.

The new administration has employed a radical approach to increase the number of people with access to water and sanitation. The installation of the 9 steel water projects in three municipalities, namely: Mbombela, Bushbuckridge and Nkomazi in this financial year seeks to increase the number of people with access to water, in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Mpumalanga Vision 2030. These plans seek to ensure that all households have access to water by 2030 and the steel water interventions are key elements for the NDP and Mpumalanga vision outcomes.

Water illegal connections are a serious cause for concern. The pipelines are a public property and those who connect illegally commit crime. We call on our people to stop this illegal act as it undermines the supply of water to affected communities. Furthermore we call upon all communities to protect the infrastructure. We are working with law enforcement agencies to arrest those who commit the crime.

THE FACE OF MPUMALANGA MUNICIPALITIES



Cllr. Mishack Nhlabathi
Mayor: Gert Sibande
District Municipality



Cllr. Lettie Masina
Mayor: Govan Mbeki
Local Municipality



Cllr. Sibusiso Mathonsi
Mayor: Mbombela
Local Municipality



Cllr. Selina Mashego
Mayor: Thaba Chweu
Local Municipality



Cllr. Renias Khumalo
Mayor: Bushbuckridge
Local Municipality



Cllr. Linda Dlamini
Mayor: Lekwa
Local Municipality



Cllr. Ntombizodwa Makhabane
Mayor: Victor Khanye
Local Municipality



Cllr. Ndaweni Mahlangu
Mayor: Thembisile Hani
Local Municipality



Cllr. Noliqwa Nhlapho
Mayor: Dipaleseng
Local Municipality



Cllr. Busisiwe Shiba
Mayor: Chief Albert
Luthuli Local Municipality



Cllr. Hamza Ngwenya
Mayor: Emakhazeni
Local Municipality



Cllr. Phalaborwa Malatsi
Mayor: Pixley Ka Isaka
Seme Local Municipality



Cllr. Lindiwe Ntshalintshali
Mayor: Emalahleni
Local Municipality



Cllr. Michael Masina
Mayor: Steve Tshwete
Local Municipality



Cllr. Thomas Ngwenya
Mayor: Nkangala
District Municipality



Cllr. Lettah Shongwe
Mayor: Ehlanzeni
District Municipality



Cllr. Thulisile Khoza
Mayor: Nkomazi
Local Municipality



Cllr. Bhekabantu Mtshali
Mayor: Mkhondo
Local Municipality



Cllr. Sipho Bongwe
Mayor: Msukaligwa
Local Municipality



Cllr. Rhoda Mathabe
Mayor: Dr JS Moroka
Local Municipality



Cllr. Lazaros Mashaba
Mayor: Umjindi
Local Municipality

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co-operative governance
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"Together, we move South Africa forward".

