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Department:  
**Rural, Environment and Agricultural  
Development**  
North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**For immediate release**

**14 March 2018**

### **MEC MANKETSI TLHAPE REMAINS FOCUSED AND DETERMINED DESPITE BASELESS REPORTS CIRCULATING ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**

The North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development has noted with dismay the social media allegations which are currently being circulated that MEC Manketsi Tlhape has used public funds for personal gain.

The Department would like to categorically state that those reports are just aimed at tarnishing the good reputation and image of MEC and a good name of the Department.

The reports are therefore baseless and unfortunate as they are misleading the people of Bokone Bophirima. MEC Manketsi Tlhape does not own any Roman Pizza franchise as it has been reported.

With regard to the said surgery, although it is a personal matter, the Department confirms that the surgery indeed was done but from her own pocket back in 2014 and at that time she was still MEC for Local government and Traditional Affairs. Therefore the reports of the MEC having used public funds are just malicious and personal attacks on her.

Under her leadership, the department has achieved a lot and the agricultural and environmental sector is continuing to contribute immensely to the growth of the economy in the province. MEC will not be deterred from serving the people of Bokone Bophirima as she has been doing for years.

**WE BELONG**

**WE CARE**

**WE SERVE**

**## ends ##**

**Issued by the Communication Services Directorate**

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