



**dcs&tm**

Department:  
Community Safety & Transport Management  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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### **"UNLAWFUL AND VIOLENT SPORADIC SERVICE DELIVERY PROTESTS ACTIONS IS CONDEMNED IN FAVOUR OF DIALOGUE" – SAYS MEC MOTLHABANE**

MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management Dr Mokgantsang Motlhabane condemns violent protests with strongest possible terms.

This follows a sporadic and continuous protests experienced across the province were a number of service delivery protests are being staged by communities leading to looting of shops, particularly owned by foreign nationals, destructions of public and private property, burning of logs and tyres as well as blocking of traffic along the road roads and disruption of schools.

In some areas motorists and passengers are threatened, abused and victimised. On the other hand some vehicles are being stoned, burned and vandalised.

MEC Motlhabane said communities that are engaging on unlawful protests are deliberately disrespecting the democratic processes, have somewhat lost hope and abandoned the need for dialogues but choose to flagrantly violate the constitution of the country.

“Our communities are well aware of processes they have to follow to express their dissatisfactions regarding the service delivery issues or any cause of dissatisfactions.

At this era of democracy and freedom, we don't expect to see communities attacking other people's businesses, be it businesses of local people or foreign owned. We are living in a democratic era were the government is committed to listening to their complaints and dissatisfactions of communities. Municipalities are strategically placed closer to our communities before matters are brought to the attention of the province or at the national level”.

“As government, it is mandatory that from time to time we have continuous engagements with the communities at different platforms and forums.

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**“Together We Move Bokone Bophirima Province Forward”**



The Premier's established '*Bua Le Puso and Setsokotsane Operational Call Centre,*' whose main objectives are to afford the citizens of Bokone Bophirima to directly raise issues, concerns and dissatisfactions as well as address such with immediate interventions. But the platform and forums offer government spheres and officials to also provides the citizens with reports and feedbacks. Hence we are saying there are whole lot of engagements established to deal with their day-to-day frustrations of communities. Communities are called upon to take advantage of these platforms and forums", said the visibly concerned Motlhabane.

Currently, communities of Lichtenburg; Boikhutso and Blydeville in the Ditsobotla Local Municipality protested for lack of service delivery and unemployment.

In Tshidilamolomo under the Ratlou Local Municipality, communities have burned tyres, trees and other objects blocking the main road following their dissatisfaction with service delivery.

Along the N18 road in Makhubung village outside Mahikeng, communities blocked the road with burning tyres, stones and other objects.

The Departmental MEC said SAPS and Traffic law enforcement agencies are and will from time to time be dispatched to monitor and normalise the situations. He equally sent a strong warning to those with intentions to destroy public and private property that they will face the full might of the law.

"Anyone found in contravention of any law will be dealt with accordingly. We will continuously deploy law enforcement to every part of the Province and I must warn those who will be found on the wrong side of the law that we will not hesitate to arrest them. We cannot allow people to do as they please as if this country does not have a constitution and the laws that are guiding us. These unlawful protest actions are nothing else but criminal activities," warned Motlhabane.

He also warned communities to avoid disruptions of schools by protesters as this only serves to perpetuates illiteracy and entrench the culture of unfairly targeting education at the time when we should be ensuring that we guarantee and jealously safeguarding the future of our children.

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