



## MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### Department Discuss Infrastructure Grant Expenditure With Municipalities

The Department of Local Government and Human Settlements in Bokone Bophirima in collaboration with National department of Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs, NW Department of Public Works and representatives from 23 local municipalities held a two day workshop recently to discuss the readiness of municipalities in terms of allocation of Municipal Infrastructure Grant for the 2016/2017 financial year.

Bokone Bophirima is identified as one of the provinces that are not spending the grant effectively. To this date, some municipalities have not used bigger percentage of the grant and they are left with two months before the end of the local government financial year.

According to the Director: Integrated Municipal Infrastructure, Mishak Monageng “Infrastructure should be provided in such a way that employment is maximized and opportunities are created for enterprises to flourish and enhance Local Economic Development spin-offs”.

MIG funding is currently equitably allocated to municipalities through a formula that takes into consideration backlogs in existing established and formalized settlements as well as poverty profiles in different municipalities. The allocation is guided by the MIG policy and MIG, which direct these funds to be spent on.

“Although the roll out of infrastructure was functional and being rehabilitated, as it needed to be sustained to avoid backlogs. The rural nature of this province needs to be looked at when addressing the challenges it faced. Withdrawing money from municipalities without addressing the challenges that contributed to the withdrawal will not help” said Hitekani Mhlongo.

Challenges are part of the diagnosis in the Local Government Turnaround Strategy as adopted by Cabinet in 2009. Among the problems identified was poor planning related to

procurement processes, hence the portfolio prioritizes financial management, governance and infrastructure development. Political instability in municipalities has also been identified in concurrence of non finalizations of readiness of some municipal projects.

“The scale of funding is aimed at expanding the delivery of basic municipal services such as water, sanitation, electricity and refuse removal has increased substantially since the establishment of current local government system” said Mr. Andree Dupplexis Provincial Coordinator Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA).

MISA's on-going work is intended to assist in tackling these old perpetual bottlenecks of municipalities not spending the MIG in full.

Members raised concerns with regards to progress of ensuring continuous procurement and service provider payment issues. “The department In this regard is aware of these challenges as they are raised in different forums and as well this is a challenge known by municipalities provincially and the department will offer support through various statutory mechanisms that are provided for in terms of its mandate” said Tshepo phetlhu Chief Director development and planning.

Tshepo Phetlhu said Tlokwe and Mahikeng local municipality are the only two municipalities that are ready to start with their projects as well as grant allocations for service delivery projects for 2016/2017 financial year.

**Issued by Department of Local Government and Human Settlements.**

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