



## MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

### Media statement

**Date: 26 April 2019**

### **Municipal Managers in the North West Lock Heads in an effort to bring about change in municipalities.**

**Rustenburg:** Municipal Managers from various municipalities in the North West through the spear ship of Local Government and Human Settlements, SALGA (South African Local Government Association) and National representative from Corporate Governance & Traditional Affairs brought about changes, when they locked heads in Rustenburg Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> April to reflect on many of the burning issues in local governance.

Some of the issues tabled affect service delivery as well as the image of local government. Subsequent to that, the meeting also sought to strengthen its interface with its municipal managers, providing a platform for them to provide technical input to policy and legislative processes critical towards enabling them to inform and shape the agenda of their municipal challenges.

The Municipal Managers Forum which was established by Department of Local Government and Human Settlements as a formal platform for municipal managers to meet and discuss matters of influence in the administration of local government, to share best practices for the acceleration of service delivery mechanisms to enable the interchange towards informing policy-making discussions on matters impacting local government.

“If municipalities must change, the municipal managers must be in the forefront of that change. Change in local government is in your hands” Uttered Head of the Department Mr Pihadu Ephrame Motoko.

Municipal managers control the engine of municipal administration which spans over 22 municipalities which are only in the North West, covering every square centimetre of our land. For anything to happen in any aspect of the life of ordinary citizens and country, local government is always on the forefront.

“As part of the supporting programme, some municipalities were identified as red-zone ones, based on unfavourable MFMA (Municipal Financial Management Act) audit outcomes that have to be improved to ensure the sustainability of these municipalities,” said Tebogo Motlashuping from Cogta Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

The municipal systems and finance management legislation give powers and full authority for the municipal managers to take responsibility and steer municipalities in the right direction under the leadership of the elected councils. Municipal managers must take responsibility for good governance in the councils. In short, municipal managers must stick to the latter and spirit of the law to take the local government to the expected level of service delivery.

The inability to take decisive pronouncements by some municipal managers will make people feel that there is still a need to wage another struggle to attain a better life. There is no room for inferior services, complacency, incompetence, indolence, dishonesty or mediocrity. The dignity and respect for municipal administration must be restored again urged Mr Pihadu Motoko.

Local government administration was created to take forward the wishes and aspirations of the people and satisfy their basic needs. These include the provision of safe water, sanitation, energy, roads, social infrastructure to support health, education and other social amenities that make life liveable and sustainable.

**-The end-**

**Enquiries : Ben Bole (Departmental Spokesperson)**

**Cell : 082 386 9508**

**Email. : [msbole@nwpq.gov.za](mailto:msbole@nwpq.gov.za)**

**Facebook : North West Department of Local Government and Human Settlements**

**Instagram : nwlghs**

**Twitter** : @nwlghs

**Website** : <http://www.nwpg.gov.za/HumanSettlements/site/index.html>