



## **MEDIA & COMMUNICATION**

### **Media statement**

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#### **Department continues its support to traditional councils**

Offices for Batlharo Ba-Ga Masibi, BarolongbagaPhoi and BatlhapingbagaMaidi traditional councils in the North West, are ready to be handed over. This was announced by the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, MothibediKegakilwe in the 2019/2020 Budget Speech.

“It is incumbent upon every traditional council to set a proper administration for its area of jurisdiction to cater for the needs of its residents. In the process it must create posts and appoint suitably qualified staff to manage the day to day affairs of the traditional council. They are accountable to Kgosi-in-council for the performance of their work. The salaries of the said staff must be paid from the coffers of the traditional council”, said MEC Kegakilwe.

He said the department will seek ways of improving the conditions of service of traditional council employees. “Over the past two decades traditional council have fallen on hard times. As a result they are unable to provide their employees with decent salaries, pensions and medical benefits. Upon reaching pensionable age, they leave the service without a penny”.

He said the maintenance of the traditional council offices buildings ought to take place every seven years, while routine maintenance should be carried on as and when the need arises and conceded that owing to budgetary constraints, these offices are not maintained as stipulated.

“Many of our traditional communities that are endowed with mineral wealth are beset with problems relating to mismanagement of funds and assets entrusted to their traditional councils. In the end the Provincial Government is beholden to intervene in accordance with the legal prescripts. In the recent past, we have been inundated with complaints by communities under the Bakwena Ba Mogopa and Bakubung Ba Ratheo traditional councils. Allegations levelled against the said traditional councils and their leaders, are viewed in a serious light. They will

will be placed under administration to allow in depth investigations to establish the whereabouts of community finances and assets”, he said.

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