



# Office of the Premier

North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# MEDIA STATEMENT

**Tuesday, 03 March 2026**

## **NORTH WEST DECLARES 2026 THE YEAR TO FIX LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Mahikeng:** With 2026 marking a local government election year, Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi has announced that the North West Province will prioritise stabilising and strengthening municipalities to improve performance and address persistent service delivery challenges.

Speaking during his State of the Province Address, which also marked the Official Opening of the Provincial Legislature, Premier Mokgosi said the stabilisation of the provincial administration has created space to intensify support to municipalities.

“As the sphere of government closest to the people, local government plays a critical role in meeting basic needs and creating an enabling environment for economic growth. There is a direct correlation between a functional local government and an inclusive, growing economy,” he said.

The Premier announced that 2026 is declared the “Year to Fix Local Government and Transform the Economy”, signalling a renewed focus on restoring administrative functionality and improving the provision of essential services such as water, electricity, refuse removal and road maintenance.

To strengthen financial governance in struggling municipalities, the provincial government has appointed Provincial Executive Representatives to oversee the implementation of Financial Recovery Plans (FRPs) and ensure compliance with financial regulations.

Encouraging improvements in audit outcomes reflect ongoing government support through financial recovery measures, administrative assistance, and improved planning and budgeting processes.

Premier Mokgosi commended Moses Kotane, Greater Taung and JB Marks Local Municipalities for improving their audit outcomes from qualified to unqualified in the most recent audit cycle.

He further stated that focused support will continue for Bojanala Platinum and Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipalities as well as Moretele Local Municipality, to help them progress from unqualified to clean audits.

The Premier also welcomed the reduction in disclaimer audit outcomes from nine municipalities in the 2020/21 financial year to only one in 2024/25, which is Ditsobotla Local Municipality.

He noted that government is satisfied with the progress achieved in Ditsobotla Local Municipality following the introduction of a National Cabinet Representative in terms of Section 139(7) of the Constitution.

Additional intervention measures will include the introduction of Section 154 support in identified municipalities, to strengthen institutional capacity in areas such as waste management and road maintenance. Further interventions are expected to focus on financial management, governance, service delivery improvement and leadership stability.

**ENDS**

**Issued by the Office of the Premier**

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