

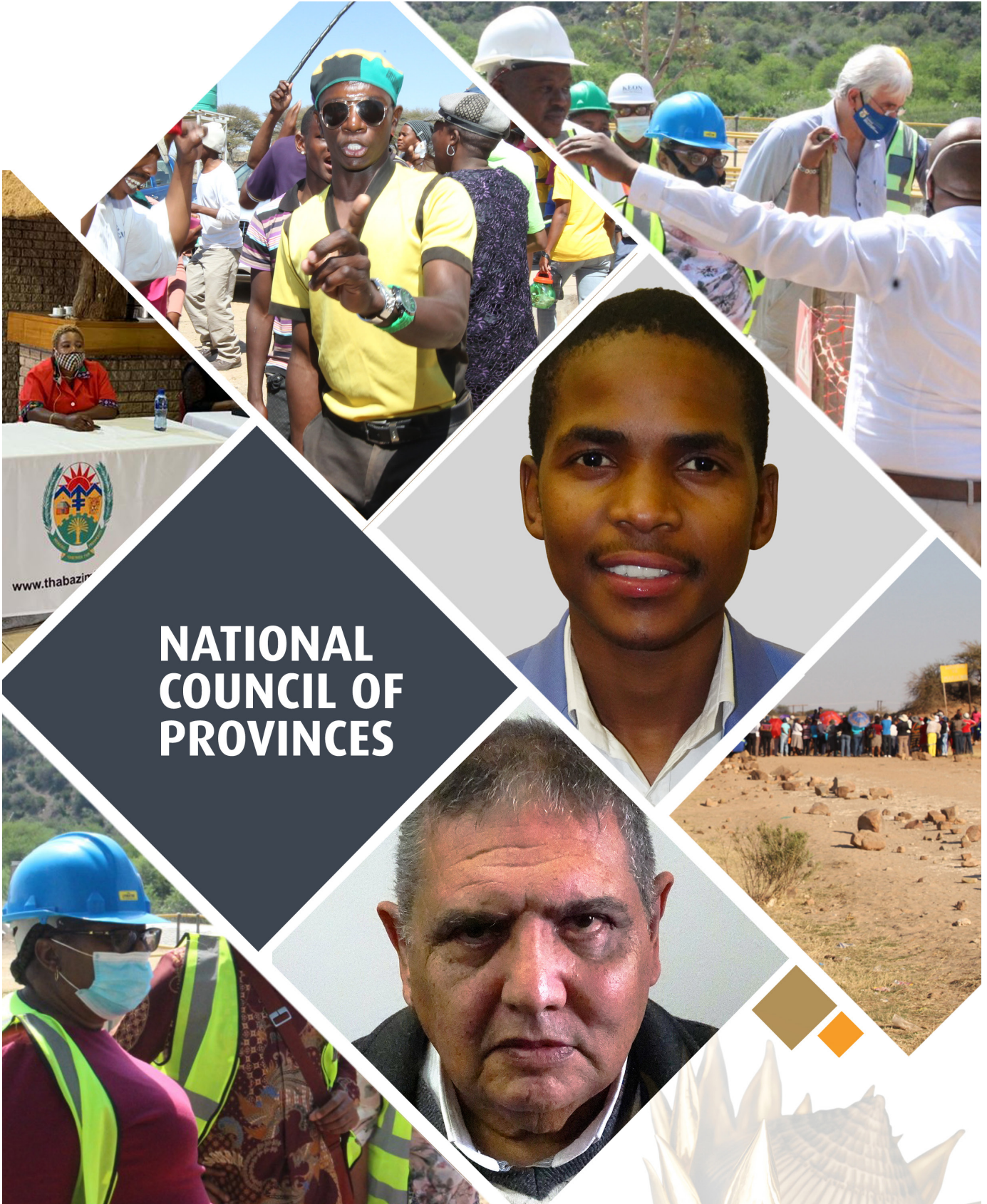


PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROVINCIAL WEEK NEWS BULLETIN

DAY 3
OCTOBER 2020

ENSURING CAPABLE AND FINANCIALLY SOUND MUNICIPALITIES



**NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
PROVINCES**

NCOP DELEGATES ADVISE MAKANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY TO USE RHODES UNIVERSITY'S ENGINEERING RESOURCES



Project Manager briefs the Eastern Cape delegation.

The Eastern Cape Provincial delegation to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) advised the Makana Local Municipality leadership to use the resources at its disposal, such as Rhodes University, particularly its engineering academics' and students' expertise to solve the problems of the municipality's ageing and crumbling infrastructure, and on the municipality's sewerage and the shortage of water challenges, *writes Mava Lukani*.

The delegation, accompanied by Members of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, received a briefing from the municipality executive yesterday on the state of the municipality. Ms Zukiswa Ncitha chaired the briefing session and told the municipality to use the natural gifts at its disposal. "This clay is not everywhere. It is a gift and a source of opportunities to this community. Use it as your gold

mine," Ms Ncitha said.

Briefing the delegation and Members of the Legislature, the Mayor of Mokana Local Municipality Mr Mxolisi Mphlwa said the municipality enjoys political and administrative stability. "The council is united, political parties that form the council are united and the administration is also united," said Mr Mphlwa.

However, the municipality is experiencing high levels of litigation and has an ageing infrastructure. Some of the litigation emanates from challenges to the municipality's tender decisions from non-governmental organisations and service providers.

Mr Mphlwa and his team presented the municipality's plans to alleviate the shortage of water, which has affected the municipality for some time. Asked by the delegation

about the causes of the water shortage and the sewerage problem, Mr Mphlwa attributed the problems to the ageing infrastructure, which is unable to meet the demands of the growing population.

The delegation and Members of the Legislature visited James Kleynhans Bulk Water Supply, Mayfield Bulk Outfall Sewer and Belmont Valley WWTW Repair Works projects in the Makana Local Municipality. The delegation welcomed the progress made and the fact that the municipality was

receptive to the province on section 154. The delegation is optimistic that the water challenges will soon be resolved, as the municipality is preparing for phase one of a sanitation infrastructure project.

On land invasions, the delegation advised the municipality to make sure that land parcels are owned by the municipality and to obtain a court order to prevent land invasions. 🇷🇷



FREE STATE DELEGATION URGES MALUTI-A-PHOFUNG TO ROOT OUT GHOST EMPLOYEES

National Council of Provinces Provincial Whip for Free State, Mr Itumeleng Ntsube, has urged the Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality to urgently root out ghost employees in the payroll of the embattled municipality, **writes Modise Kabeli**.

In its report, the municipality said it is currently re-developing a new organisational structure to correct irregular appointments made in 2017, resulting in a bloated staff complement.

Ongoing staff audits have so far discovered that out of the 1 300 employees at the municipality, there are 25 whose employment records cannot be verified, with at least four senior managers responsible for planning, budget, expenditure and supply chain management currently on suspension pending investigations into alleged corruption.

"It is unbelievable that the municipality has not dealt with these irregular appointments dating back to 2017. They should root out these ghost employees so

that they can channel these resources where they are needed," said Mr Ntsube.

The municipality is in such a financial mess that its main bank account has been attached for the past four months, raising concern about where its next equitable share, due in December, will be deposited.

The newly appointed municipal manager, Mr FP Mothamaha, said the new administration is working hard to ensure the situation is corrected before December. "The Hawks are already on site doing investigations of cases of alleged corruption and we have a proper financial recovery plan which, once approved by council, we will be discussing with Eskom to correct the situation that has led to the attaching of our accounts," said Mr Mothamaha. He added that they also have a human resource revival plan to deal with the staff "with no requisite skills and professionalism".

Maluti-A-Phofung Chief Financial Officer Ms Jemina Mazinyo said they are busy



Provincial Whip for Free State, Mr Itumeleng Ntsube

with a head count of all municipal employees and have so far discovered that 17 of the 25 employees who cannot be verified have no contracts or appointment letters. The remaining eight were found to have bank accounts that did not correspond with municipal records.

The administrator has recently handed back the management of the municipality to the Council after it was placed under section 139 (1) (b)

intervention on 10 February 2018. It has chronic electricity supply challenges due to tampering and illegal connections, and owes Eskom about R3.5 billion.

The delegation continued with its hybrid Provincial Week interaction with interactions with the Mangaung Metro and Metsimaholo Local Municipality on governance challenges, progress and achievements so far. 🇿🇦

PREMIER AND MAYOR EXPOSE POOR STATE OF MPOFANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY TO KZN NCOP DELEGATION

The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) delegation to the NCOP together with Members of the KZN Legislature received a briefing from the KZN's Premier, Mr Sihle Zikalala, and the Mayor of Mpozana Local Municipality, Mr Xolani Duma, on the state of Mpozana Local Municipality, which is under section 139 (1) (b)

of the Constitution, **writes Sureshinee Govender**.

The delegation's visit to the municipality forms part of the Provincial Week programme. The Premier and the Mayor briefed the delegation on interventions to improve the financial state of the municipality, governance

challenges and the state of service delivery.

Briefing the delegation, Mr Duma told the delegation that the municipality is underfunded. He also said that he believes the municipality does not get the support it should in terms of the Constitution from provincial

government. In addition, Ward 6 requires re-demarcation by the Municipal Demarcation Board.

He told the delegation that unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure have been tabled to the council for the past five years. The council had to condone 95%

of this expenditure and will recover 5%. Unauthorised and irregular expenditure is being investigated.

Mr Duma informed the delegation that all technical posts will be filled by 1 November 2020. The municipality received a disclaimer with 23 qualifying items in the 2018/19 audit outcomes. The municipality has addressed about 90% of the Auditor-General's recommendations. The delegation also heard about the municipality's debt to Eskom. One of the reasons for this debt, according to Mr Duma, is that Eskom bills the municipality on the 15th of the month and at the end of the month, and charges interest.

The municipality urged the delegation to ensure that the NCOP addresses the matter of Eskom's debt at national level, as it affects the municipalities throughout the country.

Premier Zikalala informed the meeting that war rooms are too distant from the national government and the gap needs to be bridged. Programmes in the province, such as Operation Sukuma Sakhe and Siyahlolo, requires that NCOP members be part of them to ensure that the people are updated. People also need to be informed by their public representatives when there are challenges and delays on major infrastructure projects. 🇿🇦



NCOP DELEGATES URGE EMFULENI MUNICIPALITY TO FOCUS ON SOLVING SERVICE DELIVERY CHALLENGES

Gauteng's permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) have urged the council of Emfuleni Local Municipality to depoliticise the challenges facing the municipality and focus instead on ensuring that it is functional, **writes Malatswa Molepo.**

The delegation believes that the political instability has created the space in which malfeasance has occurred, leading to a lack of service delivery to the people. While it is commendable that the municipality has requested that the Gauteng Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) should arrange a workshop for the office of the Executive Mayor and the Chief Whip and Speaker of council on their different powers and functions, the delegation has emphasised that service delivery should

be central to the work of these offices.

The delegation urged the Department of Cogta to urgently heed the call and arrange the workshop to remedy the blurring of the lines and the tendency to encroach on each other's delegated functions, as this has the potential to collapse governance if not responded to with precision

The delegation is also concerned that despite intervention by the provincial government, the council has not as yet acted on the recommendations made. "This non-action by council undermines the spirit of section 154 of the Constitution, as well as the spirit envisioned in the Inter-Governmental Relations Framework Act," said Ambassador Mohammed Dangor, the Provincial Whip and leader of the delegation.

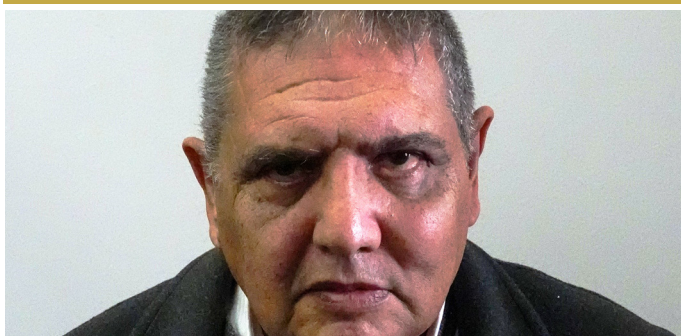
In line with this, the delegation has called for an urgent review of supply chain management's delegation of authority, action on the advice to rescind the resolution to centralise supply chain management, and the termination of irregular contracts.

As for infrastructure challenges, the committee is concerned about the funding gap between what is required and what is available to maintain and upgrade infrastructure within the municipality. It is unacceptable that Emfuleni Local Municipality has planned only R24 million for maintenance and new infrastructure development, while the town has R5 billion in road and storm water backlogs. Furthermore, the R1.6 billion that is required to address the urgent maintenance of tarred roads is not available, something which will lead to further deterioration of the

roads

"The state of the town's road infrastructure is appalling and will have a direct impact on the ability of the municipality to attract investors for the development of the town and its people. The town's unemployment rate can only be reduced when the town is a hive of activity, which is hampered by the poor state of the roads. 🇿🇦

DELAYED RELOCATION OF MAMELODI FLOOD VICTIMS CONCERNS DELEGATION



Provincial Whip for Gauteng, Mr Mohammed Dangor

The delegation visited Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality where it raised serious misgivings about the delays in relocating the Mamelodi flood victims, 10 months after the floods. The delegation said the approaching rainy season calls for urgency in the completion of the relocation, **writes Malatswa Molepo.**

“This is a humanitarian issue and should have been handled with urgency. We cannot condone endless postponements in relation to relocating the people affected by the floods,” Mr Ambassador Dangor emphasised.

The delegation visited Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality on its second day in the province as part of the NCOP’s Provincial Week programme. It said it will await the finalisation of litigation in relation to the dissolution of the council of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality and will visit the municipality to ensure that service delivery is strengthened.

Regarding the Hammanskraal water challenges, the delegation appreciated information that the first phase of the Rooiwal

Waste Water Treatment augmentation project is underway. However, the delegation is concerned that the water quality challenges remain. It emphasised the urgency needed to address the water challenges in the area and the general upgrade and development of new infrastructure to deal with increasing migration into the city year-on-year.

The delegation has welcomed the process of employee verification that revealed 630 ghost employees, and a further 12 deceased employees who continued to earn a salary. It has called for the conclusion of the data analytics and digital auditing of the City’s employee master file to ensure that the system is cleaned up. Furthermore, it has called for consequence management against those that are found to have wrongly benefitted from the creation of these ghost workers.

The delegation has resolved to prioritise the two municipalities and to propose that the NCOP together with the Gauteng Legislature visit the two municipalities in an effort to finding lasting solutions to existing challenges. 🇿🇦



Madibeng Water Treatment Plant

NORTH WEST DELEGATION PUTS WATER FACILITIES IN SPOTLIGHT

The North West delegation to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) together with Members of the North West Legislature visited water facilities and treatment plants in Brits, Lethabile and Mothotlung as part of the 2020 Provincial Week Programme on its second day in the province on the NCOP’s Provincial Week Programme, **writes Wiseman Nombanda.**

The delegation raised serious concerns about the poor state of the Brits Water Treatment Plant, which is dysfunctional, and lack of maintenance that affects water distribution to the communities in Brits and surrounding areas.

The delegation also visited the Lethabile Waste Water Treatment Plant and Mothotlung Waste Water Treatment Plant in Madibeng Local Municipality. It was shocked by the poor state of these facilities. The collapse of these projects is attributed to vandalism and poor security. The delegation called for accountability and consequence management for those responsible. This

has resulted in severe water shortage in the Madibeng Local Municipality and has posed serious environmental and health challenges to the communities.

Mr Stephanus Du Toit raised a concern over the lack of security at the water treatment facilities and called for Madibeng Municipality to prioritise that problem going forward.

To address the problem of the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality in Madibeng, the delegation urged the municipality to prioritise the young people in employment opportunities in the area.

The member of the delegation, Mr China Dodovu, raised a concern that in all the reports presented by the provincial government to the NCOP delegation, there are no concrete plans to turn around the dire situation in the municipalities in the province. “Honourable Premier and MEC of Cogta, we need a turnaround plan as a matter of urgency.” He urged the

department of Cogta to utilise section 154 of the Constitution to assist the municipalities to strengthen their capacity, as they are collapsing due to financial crises.

The Chair of Chairs in the North West Legislature, Mr Mmoloki Cwaile, has called on the provincial department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs to stick to legislative powers to resolve challenges facing the municipalities and desist from blaming political infighting. He argued that the challenges experienced by the department are as a result

of dereliction of duty and the department should develop an integrated plan to support municipalities.

The delegation also received presentations from local municipalities, including Naledi Local Municipality, Dr Ruth Mompoti District Municipality, Maquassi Hills Local Municipality, from Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Mahikeng Local Municipality, and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. 🇿🇦



North West delegation visits Madibeng Water Treatment Plant

WESTERN CAPE DELEGATION IN FULL SWING DURING ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO KANNALAND MUNICIPALITY

The Western Cape's permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) are in full swing on their week-long oversight visit in the Kannaland Local Municipality, **writes Mlindi Mpindi.**

The visit is part of the NCOP's Provincial Week programme, which has the theme: "Ensuring capable and financially sound municipalities". The delegation was briefed by the Kannaland Deputy Executive Mayor, Mr Phillipus Antonie, about progress on projects, such as the sports fields in Zoar and the upgrade on the water reticulation plant.

The Kannaland Local Municipality is located within the Garden Route District Municipality in the Western Cape. The municipal area is situated in the western part of the Little Karoo and includes the towns of Ladismith, Calitzdorp, Vanwyksdorp and Zoar. The municipality faces significant service delivery challenges, including the roll

out of services to rural areas and under-served households, water supply shortages and lack of adequate investment in economic infrastructure.

The Kannaland Local Municipality voluntarily requested to be placed under administration according to section 139 (5) of the Constitution. A financial recovery plan was developed as part of section 154's support package.

The Provincial Whip and Leader of the Western Cape Delegation, Ms Cathy Labuschagne, said: "The purpose of the delegation for this week is to focus on the interplay of support from the province, as well as the municipality's role to ensure capacity for improving service delivery to communities, as well as the improvement of financial management."

She further highlighted that resolutions will be drafted and submitted in the form

of a comprehensive report, with the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders, and these resolutions are to be implemented within a reasonable time.

The delegation will

conclude the programme by interacting with the Municipal Administrator and the support team, the Municipal Manager, the Chief Financial Officer, the Executive Mayor, and all the Councillors, on the state of the municipality. 🇿🇦



Provincial Whip for Western Cape, Ms Cathrine Labuschagne