

PREMIER ACE MAGASHULE ON SERVICE DELIVERY

Free State Premier Ace Magashule said on Wednesday, 25 July 2012, that a comprehensive team effort between key role players, including the Office of the Premier and the provincial Departments of COGTA and Treasury, continue to provide support and assistance to municipalities to address the challenges around service delivery that have been experienced at local government level. The high level team is led by COGTA MEC Ollly Mlamleli, Kopung Ralikontsane (HOD: Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs) and the Director General, Ms Elzabe Rockman.

"We have emphasized on various occasions that local government is the coal face of service delivery. This is the level at which our people experience directly the impact of government programmes and services. We have also emphasized the need for our municipalities to be further empowered to meet the needs of our people. As I announced in the 2012 State of the Province Address, we have strengthened municipalities further by sending a strong team of experts to assist with the financial and infrastructure turn-around in identified municipalities." Members of the team include senior civil servants, the retired FS Auditor General, Mr Ben van Niekerk, auditors and technical professionals.

Premier Magashule called on citizens to be vigilant and not allow the small, but vocal so-called regime change instigators to sabotage government programs and service delivery:

"Many ex-supporters of the so-called Regime Change have come back to the legitimate structures of the ANC and said they have been misled. They have told us that because of criminal efforts to destabilise our communities, they can no longer associate themselves with this faction. One of them particularly stated that his grandmother lives in an area where water and sewerage lines were closed. He was furious that the so-called Regime Change group is willing to punish innocent people for political gain. A question that we must ask seriously is the extent of the extreme measures to which this faction will go to create chaos. The establishment of factions and cabals like Regime Change, Friends of the Youth League and Cope is simply wrong."

Premier Magashule indicated that people and communities in the Free State as well as constitutional structures of the ANC should not allow that the efforts of the ANC-led government are derailed by hooligans and criminals. Various reports have been received on plans to destabilize communities, sabotage infrastructure and the provision of services in order to instigate protest action throughout the Free State in the run-up to the elective ANC Mangaung Conference that will take place in December 2012. The agenda that is being pursued is foreign to the ANC-led government, the ANC and our people.

The provincial government will ensure that it continues to liaise with the relevant state institutions to ensure that zero tolerance levels towards criminal behaviour is maintained. No damage or destruction to infrastructure or disruption or interference of service delivery will be tolerated. Equally important to be emphasized, is that no disruptions to schools will be tolerated.



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Those that are propagating, planning, instigating and/or carrying out attacks on individual citizens and their property, including attacks on local councillors and foreigners, must be prepared to face the consequences of their decisions and actions.

"Our constitutional democracy allows for all of us to exercise our rights and responsibilities in an organized and disciplined manner. These rights and responsibilities are respected by all. There should, however, be no doubt that we will act decisively to stop the barbaric, self-serving and destructive behaviour that has been identified," Premier Magashule said.

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