

Tuesday, 8 November 2011

Provincial Speakers meet again to strive for clean audits by 2014

Speaker of North West Provincial Legislature, Hon. Nono Maloyi, has facilitated a formation of a Provincial Speakers' Forum comprising of all Speakers of Municipalities in the province, both local and districts. The forum was launched in August this year with the intention of serving as a platform where Speakers of all municipalities engage and sharpen their systems and knowledge in critical areas such as Law making (Bi-laws), the exercise of oversight, public participation and other related issues. It is now meeting for the second time on Wednesday, 9 November 2011 in Tigane Klerksdorp at 09h00.

Hon Maloyi said this forum happens within the context of co-operative governance as enshrined in Chapter 3 of the Constitution which charges the government with the duties to Co-operate with one another in mutual trust and good faith by; fostering friendly relations; assisting and supporting one another; co-ordinating their actions and legislation with one another; and also avoid legal proceedings against one another.

“At National level we are able to do better because we work together as a team of a Speakers' Forum for all provinces. We want to do the same for the provinces.

“We want to foster good relations amongst ourselves so that we know if one municipality fails; it means we are all failing as a province. For instance, it must be difficult for you as a Speaker of Mamusa Local Municipality to be proud when you get an unqualified audit report when Moses Kotane got an adverse audit report,” said Hon. Maloyi.

Hon. Maloyi also said, the forum must also make sure that *Section 139* of the Constitution becomes irrelevant in the North West province municipalities.

“*Section 139* must be made irrelevant by having proper systems in place and making sure that we did everything in our power to help each other.

“Before the Legislature can invoke *Section 139*, we need to ask ourselves what we did as the forum to assist that particular municipality,” he said.

According to the Auditor General’s office, out of 24 Municipalities in the province, not a single one got clean audit outcome in the 2010/2011 financial year. Therefore the Auditor General’s office, Department of Local Government and Treasury have been invited to be part of this Forum to assist municipalities in achieving clean audit outcomes.

Schallar van Schalkwyk, Auditor General North West, said the AG’s office is there to strengthen the country’s democracy by enabling oversight, accountability and governance in the public sector through auditing, thereby building public confidence.

“For a municipality to receive a clean audit it must be financially unqualified with no findings predetermined objectives or compliance with laws and regulations.

“Some of the problems are caused by officials not receiving sufficient training. There’s a need to make sure that experienced people are brought in management positions like the Chief Financial Officer,” said Mr van Schalkwyk.

Mr van Schalkwyk also said the Forum is good initiative as Councillors need all the support they can get.

“When you are new in council, you don’t even know where to start, so a Forum like this will assist. It is also important for us to have a trust relationship with councillors and not only meet them when we are bearers

of bad news. We can advise, there and then when needed,” said Mr van Schalkwyk.

END

Members of the media are invited to attend. Please contact Namhla Luhabe on 079 527 0628 for more information.

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