



**COGHSTA**

**Department of Cooperative Governance,  
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs  
NORTHERN CAPE**

**MEDIA STATEMENT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

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**MEC BENTLEY VASS NOTES AND WELCOMES THE MUNICIPAL AUDIT OUTCOMES RELEASED BY THE AUDITOR-GENERAL SOUTH AFRICA (AGSA) FOR THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NORTHERN CAPE MUNICIPALITIES.**

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) in the Northern Cape, Mr Bentley Vass, notes and welcomes the Municipal Audit Outcomes released by the Auditor-General, Ms. Tsakane Maluleke, and the performance of the Northern Cape municipalities.

South Africa is a constitutional democracy with a three-tier system of government. The national, provincial, and local levels of government all have legislative and executive authority in their spheres, and are defined in the Constitution as distinctive, interdependent, and interrelated.

The local government sphere is without doubt the most instrumental in providing communities with essential services. It is at the coalface of service delivery, and the first interaction with the government is in this sphere. It is essential that this level of government has capable and ethical leadership for effective governance, as well as a strong, skilled, and qualified administrative staff geared towards ensuring improved service delivery and accountability in the utilisation of the state's limited fiscal resources.

MEC Vass congratulates the Frances Baard and Namakwa District Municipalities for maintaining their clean audits since the start of the administrative term. Further, the MEC Vass applauded the Ga-Segonyana, Nama Khoi, and Joe Morolong Local Municipalities for improved outcomes from the previous year, with the latter applauded for managing to improve to a qualified audit opinion after a long history of disclaimed audit opinions.



MEC Vass said “We welcome and note the audit outcomes for the 2023 – 2024 financial year. We congratulate the three municipalities that improved their audit outcomes, although six regressed from the previous year, and three municipalities received disclaimed audit opinions. We take the Auditor-General’s comments on governance failures, lack of accountability and consequences, and inadequate capacitation at municipalities very seriously.”

A focus on financial viability will enable improved service delivery. The AG’s observation that an additional five (16%) municipal managers have been appointed in the province, effectively meaning that the drive by the MEC Vass and the commitment made from the previous year to ensure vacant key positions at the leadership level of municipalities are filled, was heeded.

MEC Vass further said “I agree with the Auditor-General that Councils should ensure that budgets and service delivery plans respond to the needs of the community and use in-year monitoring to confirm whether the mayor and municipal manager are taking corrective steps to address poor performance. We continue to enhance governance through an effective accountability ecosystem and will work with all municipalities and stakeholders to improve municipal audit outcomes”.

MEC Vass has encouraged all municipalities to improve the way taxpayers' money is spent, and that the culture will only shift once there is a change in the way officials are monitored, and the implementation of vigorous processes in place to hold staff accountable in municipalities.

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**ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (COGHSTA).**