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Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

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Korporatiewe Regering
en Tradisionele Sake

umNyango
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ngokuHlanganyela
neeNdaba zamaKhosi

MEDIA RELEASE

MEC MADALA MASUKU MEETS EMALAHLENI BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON SERVICE DELIVERY CHALLENGES

The MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Madala Masuku and the Executive Mayor of Emalahleni, Councillor Lesley Nhlapho, have met with representatives of the Emalahleni Business Community to discuss issues of service delivery that affect businesses in the municipality.

In the meeting attended by representatives from the Federation of Organised Business South Africa, Chamber of Commerce and Industry and BHP Billiton, the issues of cleanliness of the town, poor water quality and the disruption of water supply, poor workmanship by service providers and the huge debts owed by business to the municipality were raised and discussed.

MEC Madala Masuku said it was important to call this meeting as the state of the municipality is the concern of all stakeholders and businesses have a big role to play. "All spheres of government must work together to deal with all the challenges that have affected the community and business in the municipality. The cleanliness of the town is the responsibility of all those who work and live there. This cannot be left to the municipality only. Business and all property owners must play their part in ensuring that the town is clean." said Masuku.

The department has initiated a project to clean up the municipality that has recruited 55 youth to do waste management and collection. The youth will be taught waste management and life skills. The youth will also conduct recycling of the waste. This project will run for the next six months.

MEC Masuku further indicated that interventions have been put in place to address the water problems in the municipality. "Working with the municipality and the Department of Water Affairs we have done a detailed technical analysis of the water network and problems in the municipality. These assessments have given us a detailed scope of the work that needs to be done. The biggest problem is the aging bulk and reticulation infrastructure and the demand due to the growing population and yet the infrastructure has not grown. As an immediate intervention we have closed all leaks to make sure that there is no disruption and as a long term intervention we will improve the infrastructure network and technical capacity of the municipality. Water is now available in all areas" said Masuku.

MEC Masuku further indicated that the department and the municipality will continue to engage with businesses and the mines to ensure that as a collective we work together to address problems of the municipality. A task team comprising of the Provincial Government, the municipality and business will be set up to work on the environmental management and cleanliness of the town. MEC Masuku requested the municipality to move closer to the problems of outstanding debts and potholes in some parts of the municipality.

Mayor Nhlapho thanked the MEC for convening such a meeting and indicated that such meetings are the beginning of building closer relations with the community. He said the municipality remains committed to dealing with all the service delivery problems of the municipality.

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