

To: All Media

Attention: News Editors and Journalists

For immediate release

Wednesday, 26 June 2019

MEC Maile statement on alleged irregularities on a multi-million security tender in Lesedi

MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and COGTA Lebogang Maile, notes growing calls to investigate the allegations of corruption and irregularities involving a multi-million rand security contract in Lesedi Municipality.

It is alleged that Lesedi Municipality's Acting Municipal Manager, Gugu Thimane, acted 'improperly and flouted' supply chain management prescripts and the Municipal Finance Management Act in awarding a multi-million rand security tender contract to Bravo Span 90cc security company.

"An explanation will be solicited to ascertain whether no impropriety or irregular act of conduct were done to favour a particular individual or company", said MEC Maile.

The municipality will be asked to respond in writing to these allegations and provide all relevant information pertaining to the awarding of the tender. If the allegations are indeed true, "heads must roll and those found to have acted improperly must face the brutal might of the law" warned Maile.

MEC Maile will pursue all municipalities in the province to adopt the Open Tender System that has proven to be useful in curbing corruption in various Provincial Government departments.

"Tender fraud, including corruption should be nipped in the bud wherever it manifest itself. It is theft to the poor and a criminal offence", continued MEC Maile.

MEC Maile expects Municipalities across the province to be transparent and prudent in the use of public funds, also ensuring that they do this in accordance with all applicable finance regulations as promulgated by government.

"No public funds should be used to benefit certain individuals or entities through wrongful and unlawful means, at the expense of service delivery", concluded MEC Maile.

In terms of Section 106(1) (b) of the Local Government, Municipal Systems Act. No 32 of 2000, as amended, empowers the MEC to designate a person or persons to conduct an investigation if the MEC has reason to believe that maladministration, fraud, corruption or any other serious malpractice has occurred in a municipality in the province.

MEC Maile hopes this matter will be resolved within a reasonable time.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements. For more information contact Castro Ngobese, Spokesperson: MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and COGTA: on Castro.Ngobese@gauteng.gov.za or Cellphone: 060 997 7790

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