

**MEDIA STATEMENT** 

**ALL MEDIA** 

**ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS** 

MONDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2022

## **GAUTENG GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO ASSIST PEOPLE THREATENED BY SINKHOLES**

MEC for Gauteng Human Settlement and Infrastructure Development Lebogang Maile held a successful bilateral engagement with Merafong City Local Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Nozuko Best and MMC for Human Settlements Cllr Ntombiyoxolo Sefako, regarding the seven (7) sinkholes needing urgent attention in Khutsong.

"The Municipality is experiencing a series of challenges daily ranging from water disruptions, collapsed and leaking pipes, stormwater drainage issues, illegal water connections, collapsed sewer lines and funding shortages to address these issues. This is affecting the Municipalities ability to service residents and needs intervention" said MEC Maile.

Due to heavy rain in the area today, MEC Maile was unable to physically visit the affected areas and engage with the community, however, the MEC has visited the area before and is aware of the magnitude of the problem residents in Khutsong and the immediate surroundings face when it comes to sinkholes.

The Provincial Government and its relevant Departments together with the Local Municipality and the National Government will meet in the coming days to better coordinate efforts by receiving, reviewing and augmenting the Municipalities short, medium and long term plans to rehabilitate sinkholes where possible and move people out of harm's way.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements. For more information please contact Spokesperson for MEC for Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development, Castro Ngobese on 0609977790.