



MEDIA STATEMENT

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Attention: Journalists, News Editors and Executive Producers]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEC MKHATSHWA ENGAGES THABA CHWEU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Mashishing – MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Vusi Mkhathshwa, says municipalities have a significant role to play towards economic growth and development of the Province. Mr. Mkhathshwa said this during an engagement on the local economy with the Executive Mayor and Speaker of Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Councillor Fridah Nkadimeng and Councillor HERN Trower, respectively, as well as their team in Mashishing today.

“We are here, as mandated by various pieces of legislation, particularly the Intergovernmental Relations Act of 2005, which mandates the provincial sphere of government, to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities, especially with regards to the local economy. We have, thus, deemed it as an opportune time to engage with you, given that you just got into office”, explained MEC Mkhathshwa.

The overall objective of the engagement was to coordinate efforts so as to create a conducive environment for economic growth and development in the Province. The engagement is mandated by Section 154 (1) of the South African Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) and the Intergovernmental Relations Act of 2005, and focused on the following:

- On sharing and aligning the plans of the Province government and municipalities for economic growth and development;
- On supporting implementation through agreed Institutional arrangements that will improve cooperation and good governance;
- On investigating competitive advantages of municipalities to boost and enhance local economies;
- On identifying potential economic opportunities to be prioritised; and
- On supporting functional LED forums and capacity for economic growth in local municipalities.

“I strongly believe that working together, we can surely reconstruct and re-develop the economy of Thaba Chweu, for the benefit of her people. We must surely collaborate, in order to reverse the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economy; hence our visit to your Municipality today”, added the MEC.

The MEC was accompanied by the acting Head of Department, Ms. Gugu Mashiteng, Chairpersons and CEOs of the Department’s Public Entities; namely, MEGA (Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency), MTPA (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency), MER

(Mpumalanga Economic Regulator) and the Nkomazi SEZ (Special Economic Zone), as well as officials from the Department and the Entities.

“We have brought along our four (4) Public Entities, so that they can present to you, their service offerings and opportunities to the people of this Municipality. Please spread the word and encourage the people of Thaba Chweu to utilise the services offered by these Entities”, concluded Mr. Mkhathshwa.

The visit was the first in a series of engagements, that the MEC will undertake with all Municipalities in the Province, to strengthen collaboration and to provide support on local economic development and economic recovery related issues.

Thaba Chweu has a competitive advantage in mining, forestry (mostly in the eastern half of the Municipality), agriculture (mostly in the western part of the Municipality), business services and tourism.

ENDS

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