



**SEKHUKHUNE**  
District Municipality

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**Office of the  
Executive Mayor**

Media Invite (Urgent)

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Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**RE: Sekhukhune’s Mayoral Lekgotla condemns violent service delivery protests.**

The Mayoral Lekgotla resolved that while communities might have genuine service delivery concerns, violent protests taking criminal forms are not the correct approach of dealing with those concerns.

This statement comes at a time when the South African Police Services is working hard in fighting continuous violent actions by some members of the public, particularly in the Greater Tubatse Municipality and Ephraim Mogale Municipality.

The latest incident occurred today (15<sup>th</sup> July 2015) where motorists and general public woke up to find that the people of Phasha Mampuru and Ngwaabe area have blockaded R579 and R555 road leading towards the small town of Steelpoort and Jane Furse with burning tyres, tree trunks and stones.

“Whilst we appreciate that the people have genuine concerns we cannot condone the violence that is taking place. As government through the department of public works we have appointed a contractor who will be handed over to the community of Phasha Mampuru today (15<sup>th</sup> July 2015) ahead of the commencement of the much awaited tarred road. We are forever committed to work with our people and engage in dialogue to solve whatever concerns they may have” said Executive Mayor Cllr Mogobo David Magabe, during the opening of the one day Mayoral Lekgotla held at Ga-Marishane village.

“Having gathered here we have also learnt with sadness the burning of a vehicle belonging to one of our councillor in Phetwane village of Ephraim Mogale Municipality yesterday (14<sup>th</sup> July 2015). We understand that some members of the community went into a rampage following a dispute over employment within a water project in the Flag Boshielo Dam. And as government we acknowledge that there were loopholes in the implementation of the project on the part of social facilitation appointed by our implementing agent, the Lepelle Northern Water, to appoint labourers. As such, we acknowledge and agree with the community that the appointment of labourers was not done accordingly. We are however, concerned that our people regard projects as job creation mechanism but like with the situation in Phetwane village, we wish to state that the primary aim of this project is to provide sustainable water to the people with jobs as secondary factor” remarked Cllr Magabe.

The Executive Mayor further alluded to the fact that the Mayoral Lekgotla is held to look into progress made with regard to service delivery implementation plans. And also that local Mayors, Councillors, Traditional Leaders, civil society groups and all members of the community must work together for peaceful solutions to every challenge faced by the people. Executive Mayor Magabe further said that government is serious about service delivery goals and will continue working with all role players to ensure that there is accountability on financial management, provisioning of basic services and achieving social unity and cohesion.

“We have also noted the preliminary recommendation by the Municipal Demarcation Board that the Fetakgomo Local Municipality will be merged with Greater Tubatse Municipality after the 2016 Local government elections. And by implication this will mean that a new type of a municipality will be established in the Sekhukhune District Municipality and government needed to ready itself for this new challenge” concluded Executive Mayor Magabe.

The Executive Mayor urged the South African Police Services to strengthen its hand in uprooting acts of criminality where they exist without infringing upon the human rights of other individuals.

The Mayoral Lekgotla which is held every 3 months is used by the District Municipality and its five local municipalities as an honest platform to access government performance and enhance service delivery.

For more information, please feel free to contact the above-mentioned official.

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