



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

14 August 2024

RE: LIMPOPO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TAKES ACTION ON THABAZIMBI MUNICIPALITY

The Executive Council of Limpopo has today taken a decisive step to invoke the provisions of Section 139 (1) (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 in response to the challenges faced by Thabazimbi Local Municipality, Waterberg District.

This section empowers the provincial executive to intervene when a municipality cannot or does not fulfil its executive obligations, including the dissolution of the Municipal Council and the appointment of an administrator until a newly elected Municipal Council is in place.

The Executive Council has given the Council of Thabazimbi seven days (7) from 15 August 2024 to respond why it should not go ahead to implement the provisions of Section 139 (1) (c).

The decision follows a comprehensive report presented to the Executive Council, highlighting persistent governance and management issues within the Thabazimbi Municipality since 2022. The report detailed significant dysfunction within the Council, compounded by high vacancies in key management positions. These challenges have severely impacted service provision to the residents of Thabazimbi.

Despite previous interventions by the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) and Provincial Treasury, the situation has not improved. The municipality is currently operating with two separate structures claiming to be the council, further exacerbating the governance crisis.

Additionally, the municipality faces substantial financial liabilities, including a debt of over R270 million to Eskom and ongoing legal proceedings initiated by the Magalies Water Board to recover outstanding payments of over R190 million.

The municipality has not been able to adopt its budget for 2024/25 financial year on time and in line with the prescribed laws and regulations.

The intervention is guided by several legislative mandates, including the Municipal Systems Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act, which obligate the provincial government to monitor, support, and strengthen municipal capacity. The assessment

conducted by COGHSTA and Provincial Treasury revealed a total collapse of services, governance and non-compliance with various legislative prescripts, necessitating this intervention.

The Executive Council has resolved to:

1. Invoke Section 139 (1) (c) of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996.
2. Direct the MEC for COGHSTA to request the municipality to make representation on the decision of the Executive Council within seven (7) days from 15 August 2024.

This intervention aims to restore governance, ensure the rule of law, and improve service provision to the residents of Thabazimbi.

The Executive Council is committed to working diligently to resolve the challenges facing the municipality.

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Dr Phophi Ramathuba
Premier of Limpopo

Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

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