MEDIA RELEASE

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PREMIER DR RAMATHUBA DIRECTS COGHSTA TO INTERVENE IN STABILISING MOGALAKWENA MUNICIPALITY

The Limpopo Provincial Government has noted with grave concern the unfolding administrative instability at the Mogalakwena Local Municipality.

The Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has directed the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Mr Pule Shayi, to institute an immediate and robust intervention to stabilise the municipality and ensure that nothing jeopardises the lawful constitution of its first Council.

This decisive action follows alarming reports regarding the intended return to work on 17 November 2026 of the Municipal Manager, Mr Morris Maluleka, who was released on R100,000 bail on Friday, 13 November 2026. Mr Maluleka was arrested by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (HAWKS) on 7 October 2026, after which the Mogalakwena Municipality Council prudently appointed Mr Lionel Mashishi as Acting Municipal Manager to ensure administrative continuity.

Expressing her utter dissatisfaction with the brewing administrative paralysis, Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba stated: "We are in a precarious and untenable position in Mogalakwena Municipality. The current developments require urgent, decisive intervention to bring stability and allow the newly elected Council to be constituted without the distraction of these side dramas.

“The Municipal Manager is a pivotal figure required when constituting a Council. The bickering and legal-administrative collisions following the granting of bail and his abrupt intention to return to work do not serve the interests of the residents who have just spoken at the polls."

The Premier has directed COGHSTA to explore all legal and administrative mechanisms required to restore order. Furthermore, should these interventions necessitate formal resolutions of the Executive Council, the Department has been instructed to table the matter as a matter of extreme urgency.

The Premier wishes to remind all municipal functionaries that the interests of the residents of Mogalakwena - who are crying out for stable governance, clean water and reliable basic services - supersede individual or factional ambitions. The state machinery will not stand idly by while service provision is compromised by administrative chaos.

END

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