



COGHSTA

Department of Cooperative Governance

Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

NORTHERN CAPE

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MEC BENTLEY VASS CONVENED A SUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL OF KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY TO DISCUSS THE CHALLENGES IN THE MUNICIPALITY IN A BID TO FIND COLLABORATIVE WAYS TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES.

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), in the Northern Cape, Mr Bentley Vass, with the officials from the Department and representatives from the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), convened a successful meeting with the council of the Kheis Local Municipality, (ZF Mgcawu District Municipality), on Monday 11 March 2024, in Kimberley.

The meeting was attended by all councillors of the Kheis Local Municipality and the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Moeketsi Dichaba, follows political and administrative instability, at the Municipality that led to serious financial challenges; labour disputes; pensions and third-party payments that are in arrears; the bloated staff and inability of the municipality to pay salaries; overall poor service delivery which negatively affected service delivery.

An action plan to address the challenges has been developed and agreed upon by the Council. The MEC intervention is aimed at ensuring that there is functionality and stability in the municipality.

Addressing the meeting, MEC Vass said it was important for all councillors to work with each other to serve the communities of the municipality irrespective of the political parties they represent in the council.

He further reminded councillors that "our communities deserve better than what we are currently giving, in that municipality and we must be able to pull together to ensure effective and efficient service delivery. The challenges that are bedevilling Kheis Municipality might lead to the dissolution of the council which is a step we are not keen to opt for but might be necessary if we do not work together better".

MEC Vass was happy that the interventions proposed by the Department were accepted by all councillors. He encouraged all stakeholders to ensure that the action plan is implemented with immediate effect and that everyone must be actively involved in rescuing the dire situation that the municipality finds itself in.

COGHSTA in collaboration with the Provincial Treasury SALGA and Kheis Local Municipality, will lead the agreed interventions and the action plan will be monitored and support provided, to ensure the achievement of all set objectives, that are expected to bring stability in the municipality.

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