



MEDIA ALERT: PARLIAMENT PILOTS JOINT OVERSIGHT STRATEGY TO ADDRESS UNDERPERFORMANCE IN FREE STATE MUNICIPALITIES

Parliament, Tuesday, 22 July 2025 – In response to the concerning findings in the 2023/24 municipal audit outcomes, the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) will this week pilot a new joint oversight model in the Free State to address persistent governance and financial underperformance in municipalities.

The committee will be joined by some members from Parliament's standing committees on Public Accounts (SCOPA) and the Auditor-General. Led by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on COGTA, Dr Zweli Mkhize, the delegation will embark on a two-day oversight visit in collaboration with the Free State Legislature, the Office of the Premier and the provincial MEC for COGTA.

This intervention follows a sharp regression in municipal performance. The Auditor-General identified the Free State as one of the worst-performing provinces, with 16 municipalities with unfunded budgets, over R4.2 billion in unauthorised expenditure, repeated disclaimer audit opinions, and widespread failure to submit financial statements on time. The Mangaung Metro, for example, faces going concern risks and returned R194 million in unspent grants for the 2023/24 financial year. Other issues include poor consequence management, ineffective oversight structures, uninvestigated irregular expenditure, and a decline in the quality of basic services and infrastructure.

This joint oversight initiative aims to hold political and administrative leadership accountable, monitor the implementation of financial recovery plans and ensure consequences for persistent non-compliance.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe the proceedings.

DETAILS OF THE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



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Date: 24 and 25 July 2025

Time: from 09:00

Venue: Windmill Casino, Bloemfontein

Programme: Day 1 (24 JULY 2024)

TIME	AGENDA	PRESENTER
09:00 – 09:10	Opening and Welcome	Hon M Dukwana – Speaker: Free State Legislature
09:10 – 09:25	Background and objectives of the oversight programme	Hon Dr Z Mkhize – Chairperson of the PC on COGTA
09:25 – 09:40	Opening remarks and introduction of members	FS Chairperson of COGTA SCOPA SCOAG
09:40 – 09:55	Opening remarks and input on the state of municipalities	Free State Premier – Hon MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae
09:55 – 10:05	Opening remarks and input on the state of municipalities	Hon S Mokoena – MEC COGTA
10:05 – 10:15	Opening remarks and input on the state of municipalities	Hon M Makume



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10:15 – 11:00	Engagement with Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
11:00 – 11:45	Engagement with Xhariep District Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
11:45 – 12:30	Engagement with Letsemeng Local Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
12:30 – 13:15	Engagement with Kopanong Local Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
13:15 – 13:30	LUNCH	
13:30 – 14:15	Engagement with Mohakare Local Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
14:15 – 15:00	Engagement with Lejweleputswa District Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
15:00 – 15:45	Engagement with Nala Local Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker



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		Municipal Manager
15:45 – 16:30	Engagement with Masilonyana Local Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
16::30 – 17:15	Engagement with Tokologo Local Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
17:15 – 18:00	Engagement with Tswelopele Local Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
18::00 – 18:45	Engagement with Mathabeng Local Municipality	Executive Mayor Speaker Municipal Manager
18:45 – 19:30	Summation of proceedings of Day 1	Chairperson PC on Cogta – Hon Dr Mkhize

ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COGTA, DR ZWELE MKHIZE.

For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee's media officer:

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