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COGTA IS ON THE SPOTLIGHT-MEC NQATHA

By Thando Sonjica



L-R:Ms Luke, Mr Madyibi. Back row is Mr Zitha and Ms Mabanga

Addressing members of the Senior Management Services (SMS) and Managers of the department Cogta at a two-day Strategic Planning Endorsement Session in Port Alfred recently, MEC Xolile Nqatha said it was important for 'team Cogta' to move with speed and be responsive to the needs of municipalities and traditional leadership institutions.

"Cogta is on the spotlight about what is happening and not happening at the local government sphere. We have a mandate to achieve hence the need to build a team that is not flatfooted rather



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move with speed because local government is at the coal face of service delivery,” said MEC Nqatha.

He said organisational renewal programme requires that “we professionalise the department, be agile and exemplary in how we do our work so that municipalities and traditional leaders that we support can also take the department serious.” He said fighting corruption and organisational renewal have become important to changing the status quo for the betterment of the conditions of the people.

He said the process of strategic planning must be able to improvise such that the experiences of the junior staff members are taken on board for the strategy to get a buy across the department.

“We must be innovative and get more ideas and inputs from junior staff members and other stakeholders,” said MEC Nqatha.

MEC Nqatha also reminded the attendees that the department had previously proposed that a research project be undertaken relating to the meaning of an ideal municipality versus a functional one in the context of the amalgamated municipalities like Enoch Mgijima.

“There are people in some Wards who want to move to other municipalities and we need to be at the forefront and present the best scenarios to the Provincial government,” said the MEC.

MEC applauded the department on the recruitment of Community Development Workers (CDWs) whom he said must be “professionalised” to serve their communities better.

“Some CDWs fight with Ward Councillors, whilst others are in the social media space for wrong reasons. This must stop because CDWs are civil servants and not politicians”, said MEC Nqatha.

He further said the challenges confronting the Traditional Affairs Branch must have to be attended to head on to serve the institutions better. In the final analysis we must function as one department with branches moving together,” said MEC Nqatha.

MEC said the department was doing good work but it can do more. “We must professionalise our work environment by following due processes and protocols of government,” said MEC Nqatha.