

**External Communications Unit  
Press / Media Release**

To : All media  
Attention : News Editors & Journalists  
Date : Monday, 16 April 2012

***For the attention of all media house***

**The Sedibeng District Municipality welcomes the NCOP in the Region**

The Sedibeng District Municipality takes this moment to welcome the National Council of Provinces during their oversight work through what has been termed, the NCOP Provincial Week in Sedibeng. The oversight visit of the NCOP comes at the time when the Municipality has just adopted a draft Integrated Development Plan & Budget for the financial year 2012 / 2013 and the Growth & Development Strategy, the Municipality's long term service delivery vision. This was followed by the current public participation process, inviting members of the public to participate in the finalisation of the 2012 / 2013 IDP & Budget and the Sedibeng Growth & Development Strategy.

The first session of the programme will be at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 08:00. At this session, the Auditor General and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) are expected to give presentations on their work and findings related government work in the Gauteng Province.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 09:00, at the Vereeniging Civic Theatre, Gauteng Municipalities will be presenting their programmes and efforts towards the Operation Clean Audit 2014 and stalled Service Delivery Projects. This will be followed by the site visits to service delivery projects on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

**Participating municipalities:**

- Sedibeng District Municipality,
- Emfuleni Local Municipality
- Midvaal Local Municipality
- Mogale City Municipality
- Randfontein Local Municipality
- City of Johannesburg Municipality

The visit will conclude its work on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012, with a report on their oversight work since the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

**What is the Provincial Week?**

The Provincial Week is one of the key mechanisms established by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to achieve its mandate of representing the country's provinces in the national sphere. It was



established in line with the provision of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996), which obligates the NCOP to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government. It is also in line with the move to build an Activist Parliament that plays an active role in giving voice to the needs and challenges facing communities.

The Provincial Week accords Members of the NCOP an opportunity to interact with the provinces and report back on their activities in the NCOP with the aim of obtaining new mandates on issues to be placed on the national agenda.

During the Provincial Week, permanent delegates to the NCOP meet with various provincial leaders, including Premiers, Members of the Executive Council (MECs), Provincial Legislatures, including the Speakers, the Whipperies and Chairpersons of Committees, and other key stakeholders such as local government leaders and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

The Provincial Week is designed to give permanent delegates to the NCOP and Legislatures an opportunity to undertake oversight visits and interact with communities in order to get *“first hand”* information on the delivery of services. They also visit projects that are implemented by both national and provincial government.

Since its inception the Provincial Week has grown to be one of the key mechanisms used by the NCOP to oversee and collect information on the progress that provinces and municipalities are making in delivering quality services to the people. It also affords NCOP delegates to undertake a joint oversight programme to ascertain the progress in advancing the government's commitment to ensure a better quality of life for the people of South Africa.

### **The focus and theme of the Provincial Week of 17 – 20 April 2012**

The government has launched Operation Clean Audit 2014, which is a bold Government initiative to ensure clean audits, transparency and improved service delivery within Government across the country. The project is aimed at promoting good governance, strengthening financial management to achieve operational efficiency and encouraging accountability within Government.

The ultimate goal is that by 2014, all 283 municipalities and provincial departments within the nine provinces will achieve clean audits on their annual financial statements.

On 13 April 2011, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) held a workshop on the consolidated 2009/10 Local Government audit outcomes in municipalities and municipal entities as at 31 January 2011. Several areas of concern were raised by members of the NCOP concerning the financial challenges facing municipalities across South Africa.

The NCOP has taken a decision to use the Provincial Week scheduled for the week of 17 to 20 April to join the drive for clean audit to highlight its importance to the delivery of quality services to communities. The Provincial Week will focus on the challenges facing municipalities in achieving



The theme for the Provincial Week scheduled for 17 – 20 April 2012 is: “**Operation clean audit 2014: Advancing our collective efforts to strengthen our municipalities to deliver quality services to our people**”.

The theme is intended to give members of the NCOP, Provincial Legislatures and Municipalities an opportunity to undertake oversight visits to look at the progress that municipalities are making in achieving clean audit outcomes by 2014 and implement effective governance structures and systems to achieve clean audit outcomes by 2014.

**These include the following issues:**

- Municipalities with disclaimers / adverse financial reports / repeat disclaimers and adverse reports / qualified audits / repeat qualified audits
- Financial management and internal controls against irregular expenditure and under-spending by municipalities
- Irregular, fruitless, wasteful or unauthorized expenditure
- Requisite management personal i.e. municipal manager, financial officer, audit committee, requisite personnel, etc.
- Number of incomplete / stalled / abandoned projects and amount lost

Compliance with audit processes and the law

**Ends!**

**Issued by the External Communications Department  
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