## Covid-19 shuts down municipal building

etsimaholo municipality informs the public and employees that the municipal building (Civic centre and Finance Building) will be temporarily closed from Wednesday (08 July 2020) till Friday (10 July 2020) and will reopen on Monday (13 July 2020) for business and operational continuity. This follows a positive case of COVID-19. The employee is under self-isolation as per the directive of the Department of Health and COVID-19 regulations.

All contacts will be traced and managed as per the Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines and regulations.



These buildings will be deep cleaned and sanitised in order to prepare and declare it safe for employees to work and the public for business purposes. The executive mayor, Cllr Lindiwe Tshongwe once more urged all employees and residents of Metsimaholo as containing the spread of Covid-19 is each and every South African's responsibility, to be wary of the known pandemic symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath. She also makes a humble plea to always take the required preventative actions, such as regularly and thoroughly washing hands with soap or hand sanitizer, maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask, avoiding crowded public places, avoid touching the eyes, mouth and nose, following respiratory hygiene and seeking medical attention when any symptoms arise. In case of any emergency, call our hotline number on (016) 976 0945.



## Fruitless, wasteful expenditure at municipalities stands at R2bn

Auditor-General Kimi Makwetu says government cannot afford to lose money because of neglect, inefficiencies or poor decision making. Makwetu said this when he released the report on the audit outcomes for municipalities for the financial year that ended in March 2019.

"The levels of fruitless and wasteful expenditure have also increased. At the moment, in terms of all the municipalities that were audited, they have got an amount of about R2 billion worth of fruitless and wasteful expenditure. "And this is expenditure that is incurred in vain that could have been avoided. However, if there were no proper systems of control, some of the expenditures are picked up after they have been incurred," he said.

According to the report, which is on the Auditor-General's website, over the three-year period, R4.27 billion of government expenditure was fruitless and wasteful. In total, 91% of the municipalities did not comply with legislation. The outcome is similar to the previous year and slightly higher than the 85% in 2016-17.

The report cited a lapse in oversight and lack of controls relating to compliance in a number of areas, including supply chain management. It also pointed to a regression in the compliance with supply chain management legislation since 2016-17. The Office of the Auditor-General remained concerned that only 2% of the municipalities were fully complying with legislation, despite all the reporting and the amount of red flags that were raised.

"The levels of unauthorized expenditure are still high, where the levels of budgets that were agreed often exceeded, either because there were no plans for some of those projects that were implemented, or the estimates that were made in the beginning tend to be much lower than the actual expenditure that has been incurred."

Meanwhile, irregular expenditure increased to R32 billion during the period under review.

According to the Auditor-General's report, irregular expenditure increased to R32.06 billion from the R25.2 billion reported last year. – SAnews.gov.za

