

DEMOLITION OF ILLEGAL BUILDINGS

MOKOPANE:Mogalakwena Local Municipality has torn down illegal housing units at Schoeman Street, Mokopane, after repeated written warnings to the occupants which were ignored. The municipality stated that it took the action in terms of its legislative responsibility to secure compliance with planning and building regulations. The illegal occupation continued despite being given reasonable notice to vacate and therefore the municipality's intervention.

The demolitions were instructed by the law. Municipalities, he explained, are required by the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act No. 16 of 2013 (SPLUMA) to manage and authorize land use within the confines of authorized development frameworks. In addition, the construction of any building without the written approval of the local authority is also criminalized by the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act 103 of 1977. The law is there to protect the safety of the public along with ensuring sustainable development.

The municipality also appealed to all residents and property owners to follow due process before developing any building. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law subject's communities to risks of financial loss, unsafe habitation and demolition. The municipality urges residents to assist the municipality by submitting building plans for approval before they start constructing. This enables compliance, safety and orderly development of our communities and towns.

Mogalakwena Local Municipality re-committed itself to the promotion of legal development, the safeguarding of public security and the respect for the rule of law.