

NTOMBELA EXPECTED TO BRING CLEAN AUDIT

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The African National Congress (ANC) in the Free State has defended its appointment of Madala Ntombela as Maluti a Phofung Local Municipal manager last Friday, calling it an effort to foster financial accountability.

Ntombela is a former mayor of Mafube Local Municipality. He replaces Steven Kau, whose contract comes to an end later this month.

Free State provincial secretary of the ANC William Bulwane said the party's policy is to deploy the most competent candidates in all municipalities, to promote sound financial practices in the municipality.

"People should understand that we are not doing this at Maluti a Phofung only, but in all municipalities because the Auditor-General's report does not put us in a good light in the Free State. We sat down as the provincial executive committee (PEC) and looked at how best can we deal with the situation of municipalities receiving disclaimers from the Auditor General."

"However, it does not mean other candidates were not good for the position, but Ntombela was chosen because of his experience as former councillor and his knowledge of municipality operations." "We also took into account the challenge thrown by the President Jacob Zuma, that all municipalities should receive clean audits by 2014, which is only two years away," said Bulwane Auditor-General Terence Nombembe announced in July this year that water utility, Maluti a Phofung Water, was the only entity in the entire Free State that received a clean audit for the past financial year.

Nombembe said the Free State situation was a concern because suitably qualified chief financial officers had been appointed at 80 percent of the municipalities and they had readily available support from the provincial government.

"Daily and monthly transactions were not adequately monitored or supervised. The skills and competence of other strategic officials therefore, remained a concern," said Nombembe The audit report also indicated lack of commitment and monitoring by more than 80 percent of the mayors and councils, which further contributed to the breakdown in accountability.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]