

PRESS SUMMARY:

## **FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION**

### **Arrest of Councillors allegedly involve in Social Grant Fraud**

Cogta-KZN was continuing in its hard line stance against fraud and corruption in the province, working with municipalities to eradicate this ill in order to restore public confidence in local government and the public service as a whole.

Partly due to Cogta's vigilance on issues of fraud and corruption and our participation in the investigative processes, there have been developments in some cases in the former Ingwe municipality, where some senior officials and office bearers have appeared in court.

Also the recent arrest of councillors allegedly involved in social grants fraud is largely due to Cogta's swift response and action. We are sending a clear message that corruption in the sphere of local government will not be tolerated.

Within Cogta itself, officials that were involved in fraud and corruption amounting to R7,5 million earmarked for the former Ingwe municipality, were charged criminally and have been dismissed from the public service following a misconduct enquiry. In the criminal matter, one employee has been convicted and is scheduled to be sentenced on 12 May 2017 to direct imprisonment whilst the two Cogta employees will be tried on 24 to 27 May 2017.

### **Municipalities in the forefront in the fight against corruption**

We similarly applaud the tough stance taken by the Greater Kokstad Municipality in rooting out fraud and corruption which saw the dismissal of five municipal employees who have allegedly embezzled funds from the municipality's pay-point customer service station. We also applaud the anti-corruption initiatives by the eThekweni Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumede, which include the "jobs and tenders not for sale campaign" and the arrests of officials involved in housing fraud. These municipalities are setting the right

tone and an example to be emulated by others. We need to bring to book those who tarnish the reputation of our government and erode the confidence of our communities in municipalities.

**ENDS**