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MEDIA STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES
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Amajuba DM withdraws from the 2016 SALGA Games

The Mayor of Amajuba District Municipality, Cllr Dr Musa Ngubane, on behalf of the Exco and full Council, wishes to report that Amajuba District Municipality will not be part of the 2016 SALGA Games to be held at Ugu District Municipality. The games will resume on the 8th – 11th December.

The withdrawal follows failed attempts by the district municipality to raise sufficient funds to cater for all the needs of the more than 450 athletes who were to participate in these annual games. Its worth noting that the decision was taken recently with all the other preparations at the advance stage for example the issue of selecting teams to represent the district was at its final stages.

It's the decision as the municipality we are not proud of but in considering reality it had to be taken. There were initial arrangements from the IGR Structures for all the local municipalities to contribute financially towards the games. It was only in the last few weeks that it became clear that two of our local municipalities could not afford to commit themselves financially in this activity for valid reasons.

Following the withdrawal of the two local municipalities the Amajuba District Municipality's Council tasked the Speaker and the Mayor to engage local businesses to assist financially. That tasked proved to be a difficult one because of the time factor as such not enough funds were raised. It was in the 5th December 2016 Council meeting that it was finally decided that the municipality had to withdraw from the games.

On the same date, the 5th December 2016, the Mayor of Amajuba District Municipality, Cllr Dr Musa Ngubane, met the sports' federations to address the matter. In delivering these sad news the Mayor was very frank and honest about all the attempts that have been made and other alternatives considered. He further assured the federations of the commitment of the municipality to support sports development and this afforded the opportunity to the federations to engage the Mayor on some sporting matters such as the development of sporting facilities.

As indicated the municipality regrets this kind of the decision but we believe those involved will understand our position. It is no hidden secret that the municipality has been working hard to put its finances in order and as such it would have been taking many steps back to commit funds budgeted for other activities to the games or going for the route of taking loans for an example. The process of rectifying our past mistakes and putting our finances into order will obviously not be easy and some difficult decision will have to be taken.

On that note we wish to unconditionally apologise to all the concerned parties, the athletes, the sports' federations, the parents of the athletes and the community at large. It is our hope and commitment that in future this kind of inconvenience would be avoided.

Ends

For more information, please contact:

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