



“Towards a Modern, Growing, and Successful Northern Cape”

NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BULLETIN:

Issue 03

STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING CONVENED ON THE 27 JANUARY 2021

The Northern Cape Provincial Executive Council convened the first ordinary Executive Council (EXCO) meeting for the year virtually on Wednesday, 27 January 2021. The Exco started on a sombre mood as Exco paid tribute those who have lost their lives due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Exco remembered Minister Jackson Mthembu, Jazz Musician Jonas Gwangwa and the spouse of MEC Vosloo, Mrs Maria Minneth Vosloo together with the many others who have succumbed to this virus.

The Province experienced torrential rain in the past few weeks and in some instances the rains have caused severe damage. The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, as the lead department, is expected to coordinate a provincial disaster relief response which will be tabled at the next Exco meeting.

Exco received a report from the MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Bentley Vass on the Province's readiness for Tropical Cyclone Eloise which had ravaged certain parts of South Africa and Mozambique. In his brief report to Exco the MEC indicated the readiness of the Provincial Disaster Team, who are on high alert for Tropical Cyclone Eloise which is also envisaged to strike in three of the five districts, namely, Frances Baard, Pixley Ka Seme and the John Taolo Gaetsewe districts. District Joint Operation Committees are briefed and systems have been put in place.

ON EDUCATION

- The 9th National School Governing Body elections will take place as from the 1st to 31st March 2021. Premier, Dr Zamani Saul, together with the MEC for Education, Mr. Zolile Monakali will virtually launch the SGB elections which coincides with the address of Premier Saul's address on the school readiness for the 2021 academic year on the 9th February 2021. A detailed report was presented on the work done to ensure that all the necessary staff is appointed in schools before the re-opening of schools on the 15th February 2021.
- Exco acknowledged the work done by the Department of Education as it relates to the National Senior Certificate Marking. It was reported that the process went off smoothly. Exco expressed gratitude to all the markers and Moderators who were involved in the marking of answer scripts this year for a sterling job under trying conditions, but also to sector departments, such as the Department of Health, the South African Police Service, the Sol-Plaatjie Municipality and the Provincial Leadership of SADTU for the support given to the four centres. The matric results will be released on the 23 February 2021.
- Exco noted the progress made in relation to the online school admissions. The department was endeavouring to ensure that all learners are placed in a school and in some instances the placement might not be what the parents have preferred. Exco appeals to all parents to be patient and to understand that Government will not deny any child a state education.

ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Exco noted the work being done by the department of health amidst the rising rate of COVID-19 infections and deaths in the Province. With the first 1 million doses of vaccines arriving in the country on the 1 February 2021, the Northern Cape is ready to roll out the vaccination programme which will be announced by the Premier in due course.

Exco calls upon the community of the Northern Cape to exercise extreme vigilance in our collective fight against this scourge on humankind. To this end, it is incumbent upon all residents of the province to ensure that we avoid the 3 C's which are: **Crowded spaces**, **Close contact** and **confined enclosed spaces** at all costs. Furthermore, adhering to the basic COVID-19 protocols remain critical: **washing of hands or sanitizing and wearing of masks**.

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