



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

# NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BULLETIN:

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## INTRODUCTION

The Executive Council met in its monthly meeting convened over a period of two days.

The Executive Council observed a moment of silence in honour of the late Mr. Mxolisi Simon Sokatsha, who passed on in a tragic accident on 25 March 22. Mr Sokhatsha served on the Executive Council in various portfolios, including Social Development, Public Works, and Health.

This meeting was convened a day after the STATS SA had presented the quarter four quarterly labour survey. In his remarks, Premier Dr Zamani Saul reflected on the unemployment rate in the Province and the need for the Government to, together with the Private Sector, look at ways of creating sustainable jobs for the people of the Northern Cape. Premier Dr Saul encouraged members of the Executive Council to ensure that through innovative means, they continue to deliver services to the people of the Northern Cape amidst the many challenges that the country is facing.

## ON INVESTMENT IN THE PROVINCE

The Executive Council reflected on the R7 billion investment by Vedanta Zinc International (VZI) to the Gamsberg Phase 2 expansion project. The mine has its operation in the Khai Ma Municipal area in the Namakwa District. This investment forms part of the second phase of the R21 billion commitment pledged by VZI, and will create 2000-2500 jobs during its construction phase as well as 800 -1000 permanent jobs upon completion of the project. The project is aligned to the Spatial Economic Zone in Namakwa and will bring about significant socio-economic benefits to the Province.

The Executive Council was also presented with another significant economic project, the Prieska Power Reserve Green Hydrogen project, situated in the Siyathemba Municipality in the Pixley Ka Seme District. This investment worth R 9,7 billion is expected to create more than 1000 jobs in the implementation phase and significantly benefit the local community and enhance supplier and enterprise development, this to the value of R2.3 billion over three years. The project managers have shown an interest in taking a delegation of the Executive Council on a Study Tour of this project in Germany.

In an effort to grow the economy of the Northern Cape, EXCO identified key economic catalytical projects which are connected to the Spatial Economic Zones (SEZ); those include the Kathu Industrial Corridor along the N14, the Upington Industrial Park, the Namakwa SEZ, which includes the Boegoebaai Harbour which is planned to become a Special Economic Zone Satellite Site, situated in the Richtersveldt Municipal area, as well as the De Aar Logistics Hub.

The Executive Council further resolved to avail R10 Million to the Northern Cape Economic Development Agency (NCEDA) as initial capital and operational cost as a start-up basic minimum to put together an organisational structure for the Northern Cape State-Owned Construction Company. NCEDA is tasked to look at models that will work.

Exco further resolved to rationalize the state-owned Public Entities. There are six listed Public Entities as PFMA Schedule 3c entities, and three are not listed; they are regarded as an extension of the departmental functions. Action Plans are to be finalized within the 2022/23 Financial Year for all the Entities.

## ON THE EXTENDED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LEKGOTLA

The Executive Council further endorsed the resolutions taken at the Extended Executive Council Lekgotla on the 17 & 18 February 2022, at Platfontein Lodge. The resolutions included, amongst others, Economic Growth guided by the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan; the effective roll-out of the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) in both the Social & Economic Sectors; Effective Communication and interface with our communities as well as forming Effective Social Compacts and workable Stakeholder Relations with the Private sector.

## ON THE STATE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PROVINCE

The Executive Council took time to look at the State of Municipalities since the last Local Government Elections of 01 November 2021. It has been noted that 15 municipalities are considered ‘Dysfunctional’ and that 11 municipalities have not submitted their Annual Financial Statements (AFS) to the Auditor General. This situation cannot continue on this trajectory; hence, the provincial government has resolved to host a Local Government Summit in the next two months to develop a strategy to respond to and stabilize the situation in municipalities. Exco also noted that the South African Local Government Association (SALGA NC) is developing Guidelines for Coalitions in Municipalities to address governance stability in municipalities.

## ON GOVERNMENTS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Exco further noted and applauded the Department of Health for their work in containing the spread of Covid-19 in the province. Exco noted that the resurgence of the positivity rate in Covid-19 cases in the country with specific reference to the top four provinces, which include Gauteng, Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal; and the Northern Cape which follows at position number four.

Furthermore, Exco resolved to resuscitate the Substance Abuse Forum to curb the spread of drug abuse amongst youth. All sector departments are directed to participate in this all-important Forum led by the Department of Social Development.

During the month of May, Government will focus on the Rights of Workers as well as celebrate Africa day.

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