



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

# NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BULLETIN:

Issue 01

## INTRODUCTION

In consultation with a range of senior managers in the office of the Premier, we considered it useful that an Exco Bulletin be issued digitally to the community of the Northern Cape to inform the entire electorate of the work of the Executive Council and, by extension the progress the Provincial Government is making within the context of various suites of legislation, mandatory prescripts and policies.

Exco comprises the Premier as the Chairperson, with its core membership derived from the various members of the Executive Council (MEC's) responsible for the different portfolios. As the Director General and Accounting Officer, I am the secretary to Exco and in our collective effort to keep you abreast of critical developmental initiatives, this Bulletin was conceptualised and hence came to fruition with the issuing of this first edition.

We trust that the contents herein will inspire motivation, hope and hard work in realizing our vision of a Modern, Growing and Successful Northern Cape

Justice Bekebeke

DIRECTOR GENERAL – NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

## NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EXCO) STATEMENT

The Northern Cape EXCO met by way of a virtual sitting on the 28th October 2020 within the backdrop of the South African Reconstruction and Recovery Plan as announced by the President, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa as well as the Mid-Term Budget Policy Statement delivered by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Tito Mboweni. It is worth noting, that in a Province with already high levels of poverty and unemployment before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a further 82 000 jobs were lost due to its devastating socio-economic impact.

This unsatisfactory scenario, from the economic perspective, has both necessitated and compelled the EXCO to come up with creative and innovative ideas and solutions to cushion the destructive impact of the pandemic.

Therefore, in essence, the contents of this bulletin seek to address the foregoing as well as to lend further impetus to the 6th administration's commitment to the people of the Northern Cape in the State of the Province Address (SOPA) earlier this year.

The EXCO, in its deliberations, approved the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP) which aims to be an implementing arm, guiding the utilization of scarce provincial resources and providing a sound platform for driving integrated development. The PGDP also serves as a measure to gauge progress against predetermined targets on the basis of good governance underpinned by principles of accountability. The PGDP addresses issues of economic growth, social development, environmental protection, creation of employment, poverty eradication and good governance concretely with implementable projects for the sustainability of decent livelihoods for all in the Northern Cape.

The establishment of a Provincial Growth and Investment Council is one of the commitments made by the 6th administration in the SOPA and EXCO approved its terms of reference. The main task of the Provincial Growth and Investment Council will be to implement the provisions of the PGDP and ensure that socio-economic investment in the Northern Cape continues for the greater good. The council is purely advisory in scope and content and aims to place the Northern Cape at the frontier of new ideas and innovative actions, thereby strengthening the Province's socio-economic performance based on a social compact to build a Modern, Growing and Successful Province. An advertisement will be placed in due course seeking potential commissioners to serve on this council.

Coupled with the above, the 6th administration articulated a vision of creating Kimberley as a modern and digitally smart city that would keep up with the trends of rapid technological advances, and as such creating a new identity from its reputation for diamonds to digital technology in accordance with its pioneering history which labelled it as a “City of firsts”. EXCO also approved the terms of reference for the steering committee.

In order to create greater efficiencies, the 6th administration has deemed it necessary to undertake a review and rationalization process of provincial public entities to ensure that we promote synergy with national ministerial portfolios and related institutions which will be responsible for broad policy outcomes to realize value addition for the people of the Northern Cape.

In the main, this intense exercise intends promoting coherence, better coordination and optimizing the use of resources for effective and efficient administration.

## PAYMENT OF SUPPLIERS

In line with the commitments made by President Ramaphosa, the EXCO has endorsed Treasury Regulation 8.2.3 which stipulates that “unless determined otherwise in a contract or other agreement, all payments due to creditors must be settled within 30 days from receipt of an invoice or, in the case of civil claims, from the date of settlement or court judgement”. EXCO has further committed to, at each of its sittings receive reports on the 30-day payment rate in each department, thereby acknowledging and promoting the crucial role that small businesses play in the broader economy of the Province.

With the COVID-19 pandemic having hit small businesses the hardest, it becomes important that Government pays small businesses on time. EXCO received a report from the Provincial Treasury for the period ended 30 September 2020 and will, at its future sittings, receive regular reports from all departments.

## THE PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT

Plans are earnestly afoot for the Provincial Government to host an INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT from 2-4 December 2020 with the objective of providing a platform for informative and interactive sessions with the prime players in the infrastructure sector across various spheres such as government, policy makers, industrial leaders, academia and potential investors, which will explore new areas for financial partnerships, as well as to facilitate access to finance for infrastructure players and identify job opportunities for new and existing small businesses. The Summit will be held in a hybrid format with most participants being at the conference venue and others interacting digitally from the five regions that comprise the Northern Cape.

The principal objective of the summit, as the naming thereof aptly suggests, is to determine the infrastructure needs and challenges of our Province by way of meaningful engagements that will chart a clear way forward in support of our developmental aims.

## COVID-19

The Province has done a considerable amount of work in ensuring that we delay the COVID-19 peak in our Province, thereby assisting in our collective attempt to minimize the contraction of the virus by our people. We are approaching the peak season and we have taken greater measures to flatten the curve. Therefore, we appeal to our communities to ensure that we religiously observe the COVID-19 protocols which are: maintaining social distance, wearing of masks and washing and sanitizing of hands. We have done relatively well thus far and we are confident, that moving forward, we will continue to work together to ensure that we lessen the possibility of a second surge.

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