



NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BULLETIN:

21 December 2020 - Issue #02



We are pleased to present to you a summary of the most crucial decisions that were considered and adopted by the Executive Council at its last scheduled sitting.

The Executive Council Meeting was convened a week after the Provincial Government convened a successful Provincial Infrastructure Summit, where a number of clear commitments were made in an effort to change the lives of the people of the Northern Cape. The Provincial Infrastructure Summit lays the basis for the development of the Provincial Infrastructure Strategic Plan, in his welcoming address the Chairperson of the Executive Council, Premier Saul emphasized the importance of ensuring that the resolutions taken at the summit are practical and implemented.

The Executive Council meeting was also convened a day after the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize announced that we have as a country moved into the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, which seems to be more devastating than the first wave, making it prudent that as province, we ensure that we curb the spread of this virus, especially during the festive season, where many people will be travelling into the province, or driving through the province enroute to their different holiday destinations.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS

The three year term of office of the current set of governors will end in February 2021. It is important to note that besides the current nomination and election meeting process in our provincial regulations (Notice 35 of 2017), there is a need to introduce two other modes of elections in the main a full-day election and e-voting. The latter will improve participation, enhance the technological skills of parents and contribute towards reducing the spread of the COVID-19. The forthcoming SGB Elections seeks to respond to the vision of the Provincial Government of 'Building the elements of, capacity for and momentum towards a Modern Growing and Successful Province.

It is envisaged that the Department of Education will put in systems in place to ensure that SGB elections are managed smoothly and in accordance with the principles of participatory democracy, transparency, non-racialism, non-sexism and the necessary accountability.

All schools will announce their specific SGB election dates, venue and time on which elections for parents teachers, learners and non-education staff are to take place by way of newspaper and radio advertisements.

PRESENTATION BY THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Executive Council received a comprehensive presentation which in the main focused on the preparations towards the Local Government Elections which will be held next year by the Independent Electoral Commission(IEC). It was noted that in view of financial constraints all institutions supporting our constitutional democracy were experiencing material challenges and to this end the IEC was no exception. As a result there has been some changes brought about by the commission in an effort to also ensure that the elections do not become super spreader events. The IEC has in its presentation to Exco presented innovations within the commissions, such as the revamped website and the app developed by the commission. These are all measures by the commissions to help in curbing the spread of the virus.

STUDIES TO ESTABLISH THE FEASIBILITY OF THE FULL VALUE CHAIN OF MANGANESE IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

It was noted by the Executive Council that the positive benefits of realizing the full value chain of manganese mining in the Northern Cape are, but not limited to the follow;

- Generating tax and dividends tax per the provincial fiscus
- Royalties
- Payroll taxes
- Levies on fuel and imported items
- Stimulation of economy by way of local procurement
- Job creation and Skills development
- Revitalization of the logistics value chain

In support of realizing the aforementioned benefits, the Northern Cape Economic Development Agency was tasked to establish an advisory body to implement the process of profiling and conducting studies on the establishment of a Mining Smelter in the Northern Cape.

NORTHERN CAPE INVESTMENT BOOKLET

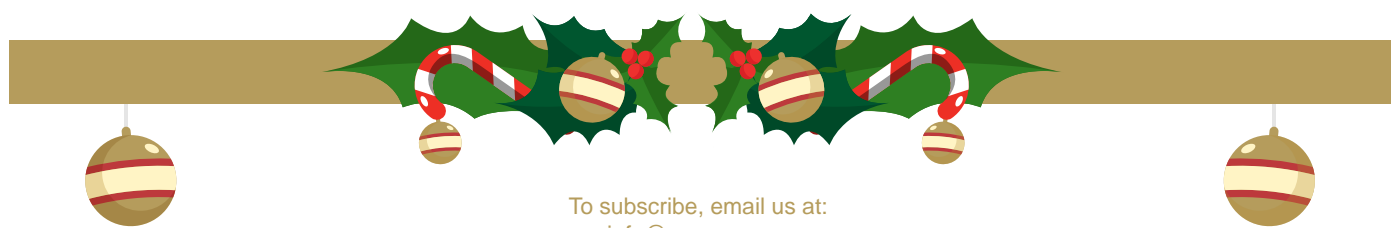
The Executive Council deemed the compilation of the Northern Cape Investment booklet a strategic and primary source of information for potential investors. Moreover specific projects in the Investment booklet will facilitate access to international markets and will act as a trajectory in advancing the Northern Capes competitive profile, both in reach and in content.

The following projects were viewed as critical in stimulating the GDP of the Northern Cape and will create jobs, the following will find prominence in the Investment Book:

1. Boegoe Baai Harbour, Port Nolloth
2. Namakwa SEZ, Aggeneys
3. Lower Orange River Agriculture production and agro-processing, Pella to Alexanderbaai
4. Upington Industrial Park, Upington
5. Algae Plant, Upington
6. Kathu Industrial Park, Kathu
7. De Aar Logistics Hub, De Aar
8. Tsantsabane Fuel Depot, Postmasburg
9. Metals Cluster, Kuruman
10. MRO Facility, Upington
11. Prieska Copper Zinc Mine, Prieska

FESTIVE MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Exco wishes every citizen of the Northern Cape a Merry Christmas and a blessed festive period while acknowledging that as a caring and compassionate province, we will remain extra vigilant throughout this festive period, exercise the necessary and restraint in order for us to further curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Remember to stay safe on our roads as you travel observe the rules of the road and let us return safe in 2021 to continue to together, build a Modern, Growing and Successful Northern Cape.



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