

Statement on the Provincial Executive Council meeting of 03 February 2016

1. Reflections

The Provincial Executive Council expressed appreciation to the people of uMsinga who attended the launch of the Inkululeko Development Project II held in Cwaka, uMzinyathi District Municipality. The launch of the Inkululeko Development Project II, follows on the implementation of the similar project in Ndumo. The Executive Council however expressed serious concerns on what was identified as challenges that impact on learning and teaching in the area. The Executive Council resolved that designated MEC champion must convene a process that will look into issues that impact on quality education in the area and present concrete action needed to improve the situation. Among key issues identified during the visit were: factional fights, school infrastructure, school management and social ills.

The Executive Council further expressed its concern on the developments at eThekweni Electricity where technicians have been prevented or interfered with from performing their duties. The Executive Council tasked MEC champion for eThekweni Municipality to present a report at the next sitting on the situation and measures taken to resolve the situation.

2. Progress Report on Glebelands Hostel

The Executive Council received a progress report from a delegation led by the Mayor of eThekweni, His Worship Cllr. James Nxumalo on interventions made in the Glebelands Hostel thus far to resolve conflict that has been experienced in recent past. The Executive Council was satisfied that much has been done to ensure safety and security of residents. Government will continue to monitor the situation noting that an integrated approach involving government departments such as Community Safety and Liaison, South African Police Services, Human Settlements and eThekweni Municipality has ensured that we make progress in terms of the implementation of a turn-around strategy. Furthermore, it was noted that there is political dimension to the conflicted and therefore affected Political Parties should be involved to actively play their part in the process of mediating on-going political conflict in the area.

3. Report on 2015 National School Certificate Results

The Executive Council received a presentation on a draft Education Turn-Around Strategy and interventions to improve the National School Certificate Results in the Province. The strategy is underpinned by a three-pronged approach, namely, ***“Operation Bounce-Back”, “Back to Basics” and “Teaching on Time and on Task”***. The Executive Council welcomed the report and resolved that issues raised in it must form the basis of engagement at the Premier’s Education Indaba to be held with various stakeholders at Sibaya in Durban.

4. Executive Council Sub-committee on International Relations

The Executive Council approved the reactivation of the Provincial Executive Council Sub-committee on International Relations, which was established to take stock of existing trade and foreign cooperation arrangements by the Province. This committee will also look at how the Province can fully utilize these cooperation arrangements to open up mutually beneficial economic activity.

5. 16 Years of Democratic Local Government Celebration

The Executive Council approved the hosting of activities to mark key milestones that have been achieved since the inception of Democratic Local Government in South Africa 16 years ago.

It was noted that this platform presents the Provincial Government and Municipalities with an opportunity to reflect on the 16-year journey of Democratic Local Government, especially successes that have been recorded and chart a new development path for the sphere of local government. To mark the event and communicate in a communicate successes that have been made over the past 16 years, the Celebration flame will move to all 10 District Municipalities and Metro culminating to the Municipal Excellence Awards Ceremony in March/April 2016.

Ends.