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FREE STATE PROVINCE

MEDIA STATEMENT

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EXTENDED BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION LEKGOTLA,

27 -28 February 2013

The Free State Executive Council held an Extended Implementation Lekgotla in Clarens from 26 - 27 February 2013 to map out implementation plans to fast-track service delivery in the Province.

The meeting was attended by Premier Ace Magashule, MECs, Heads of Department, Provincial Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Kehla Sithole, Mayors, Municipal Managers, CEOs and Chairpersons of Boards of state owned entities.

The meeting comes shortly after the delivery of the State of the Province Address (SOPA) on 21 February 2013 by Premier Magashule. In his opening remarks Premier Magashule said: "We must work together in order to ensure we provide the necessary protection for all the citizens, black and white, women and children, from the scourge of killings, rape and drug abuse".

The *lekgotla* agreed on a number of measures to improve the capacity of the provincial and local government spheres to deliver quality services through an integrated approach in line with the National Development Plan and the Free State Vision 2030.

The meeting received a report on the progress being made by Municipalities with regard to expenditure on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant. Significant progress has been made by local municipalities to refurbish water and wastewater treatment works during the current financial year. It was agreed that together with local government sector, the provincial government will continue to cooperate and support the implementation various strategic projects of the Department of Water Affairs.

Provincial Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Kehla Sithole presented to the meeting the Province's Crime Prevention Strategy. The meeting agreed on an integrated approach to fight crime in the province.

The provincial and local government will work closely with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to deal with the increasing problem of farm murders, rape, public disorder and gang-related activities.

The Extended Lekgotla resolved to host the Provincial Crime Prevention Summit during March 2013 as announced by Premier Magashule during the State of the Province Address. The meeting further resolved:

- To ensure that all spheres of government adhere to good governance principles that will ensure the attainment of Clean Audits by 2014;
- The need for enactment of the relevant Municipal By-Laws and ensuring adherence and integrity of the Liquor Licencing and selling provisions;
- The Lekgotla emphasised the need to step up the fight against corruption and that 'No Government Official will do business with government'

- The provision of School Nutrition through Cooperatives was affirmed as well as the implementation of Cooperatives dealing with Security Services utilising the recently trained security personnel
- It was further resolved that Service Delivery Monitoring will be intensified in order to ensure that the integrity of service delivery is upheld in areas such as the implementation of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant
- The Lekgotla deliberated over the scarce water resources in the province. It was highlighted that there must be an IDP linked Water Master Plan at Municipal Level in order to ensure that clean drinking water is provided to the people of the Free State Municipalities of the province were motivated to aspire to attain a “Blue Drop Water” Status
- The Lekgotla endorsed the eradication of one-door houses starting with Bluegumbush in QwaQwa and two-roomed Houses starting with Heidedal and Rocklands in Bloemfontein as well as Sasolburg, Reitz and Schonkenville as part of the plan to eradicate Two Roomed houses in the province;
- Endorsed a plan by the Department of Human Settlement’s to deal with incomplete houses in the province; and
- The need to upscale communication with communities on service delivery achievements and challenges to prevent mis-information;

The Free State provincial government will report back to the public on service delivery during a televised briefing session to be held in Bloemfontein on Wednesday, 06 March 2013 in partnership with SABC/TNA. The show will be broadcast live on SABC 2 at 6h30 to 9h30.

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