

MEDIA STATEMENT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TO ALL EDITORS  
DATE: THURSDAY, 01 OCTOBER 2020

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
THE 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Limpopo Provincial Government's Executive Council (EXCO) held a virtual meeting on the 30 September 2020. The meeting was chaired by Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. He welcomed everyone and thanked all members of the Executive Council for their dedication and commitment to steering the service delivery ship amid difficult circumstances posed by COVID 19.

1. Citrus Export Production Forecast

Members of the Executive approved the Citrus Export Production Forecast Growth report. The purpose of the report was to update on the outlook of citrus production, growth and projected export volumes aligned to logistics and infrastructure demands and developments. EXCO noted with appreciation the increase in demand for citrus globally. This is advantageous to South Africa as it is the second largest exporter of citrus internationally, and Limpopo leading the production in the country. The anticipated increase of production is from the current expansion of citrus plantings at commercial level, including planned revitalization of orchards on collapsed community owned farms and new orchards development. However, the CGA highlighted some of the challenges encountered in the export business such as storage and transportation.

Some of the interventions to mitigate the above include, resuscitation of the Inter-Departmental Working Committee coordinated at the Economic Cluster level, to look into possible solutions and working with Transnet and CGA to develop a plan on the revitalization of rail transport in the identified corridors.

EXCO also directed for a review of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Transnet and the Limpopo Provincial Government. This will go a long way in addressing transportation and other logistical challenges encountered in exporting of citrus. In a quest to address storage challenges, a cold storage is being built in Marble-Hall.

2. Social Cohesion and Nation Building Strategy

EXCO approved Limpopo Social Cohesion and Nation Building Strategy. The primary objective of the strategy is to ensure that Limpopo is a stable, united, socially cohesive and equal society where communities co-exist in harmony. At the core of this strategy is the promotion of human rights, respect for life and building of safer communities.

The Executive Council directed that all departments and municipalities should align their plans and strategies to the ethos espoused in the Social Cohesion and nation Building strategy.

### 3. Local Government Transitional Framework

Noting that the Country is at advanced stage in terms of preparing for the forthcoming Local Government Elections, the Executive Council adopted the Local Government Transitional Frameworks to guide a smooth and uninterrupted transition from the 4th to the 5th Term of Local Government Administration.

The framework is anchored on building capable and developmental local government institutions that are stable, economically viable, integrative and sustainable. The Transition Framework directs all municipalities to put measures in place towards integrating economic recovery plans and the district development plans as the key components of stabilising Local Government.

### 4. Stabilization of Mogalakwena Municipality

EXCO received a report on stabilization of Mogalakwena Municipality and noted significant progress since the municipality was placed under section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 108 Of 1996, in December 2019. The Executive further noted that the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs approved the intervention and advised the Provincial Government to assume full responsibility of areas identified during the Rapid Assessment. The Provincial Government has complied with the Minister's advice.

An inspiring improvement has since been registered in leadership and governance of the municipality. The municipality holds Council meetings regularly and its structures are functional.

### 5. Stabilization of Vuwani

The Executive Council noted a report on stabilization of Vuwani and surrounding villages. There is an overall stability in Vuwani as highlighted by some activities that confirm that community members seem ready to be serviced by the Collins Chabane Municipality. Key among those are:

The Mayor's interaction with all community structures, the willingness of Senior Traditional Leaders to participate in municipal council and the establishment of Ward Committees that has been outstanding for some time.

EXCO directed that relevant stakeholders be engaged with regard to handing back the functions by the departments of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism and Public Works, Roads & Infrastructure to the municipality as legislated authority and institution with budget.

## 6. Recognition of Senior Traditional Leaders

The Executive Council approved the following as Senior Traditional Leaders in terms of Section 12 (1) (b) of Limpopo Traditional Leadership and Institutions Act No. 6 of 2005:

- Chabalala Famanda Yusto under Siyandhani Traditional Community in Mopani District.
- Maswanganye Khayizeni Ishmael of Maswanganye Traditional Community in Mopani District.

For media enquiries: Mamogo Ntuli (Acting Government Spokesperson)  
079 490 6322  
Matlebyanem@premier.limpopo.gov.za

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