

Media Release

01 September 2022

August Post-Executive Council Meeting Media Release

The Limpopo Executive Council (EXCO) met on 17 and 31 August 2022 to consider and take decisions on the following:

1. Provincial Mining, Energy and Industrialisation Investment Conference: 29-30 September 2022

EXCO approved the memorandum on the hosting of the Provincial Mining, Energy and Industrialisation Investment Conference scheduled to take place on 29 and 30 September 2022. The 2022 Provincial Mining, Energy and Industrialisation Investment Conference will build on the successes of the inaugural Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's Investment Conference and the Provincial Investment Conference. It will take place under the theme *"Realising Limpopo's Investment Potential in Mining and Other Strategic Sectors of the Economy"*.

The first day of the conference will focus on the mining and energy investment opportunities available and highlight and promote projects in the province, whilst the second day will focus on the investment opportunities in agriculture, ICT and renewable and alternative energy.

2. Heritage Month Celebrations

EXCO granted approval for the planned celebration of the 2022 Heritage Month in the province. The month commemorates the nation's cultural diversity and affords everyone a chance to express national unity. The theme for this year's celebration is "Celebrating our Indigenous Music Our Heritage". Various departments and entities will join hands in executing this project, culminating into the Provincial Heritage Day Celebrations that will be held on 24 September 2022 at Mokwawaila Stadium in Greater Letaba Municipality. The Heritage Month programme will be launched on 05 September 2022 where all activities for the month will be outlined whilst build up activities will be celebrated in the five Districts of the Province.

3. Review of the Provincial Climate Change Response Strategy

A memorandum to review the Provincial Climate Change Response Strategy was presented and approved by the Executive Council. The review process involved the assessment and updating of the provincial climate risks and vulnerabilities, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories, integrated adaptation, and mitigation

strategies, as well as the implementation plan. Special emphasis was placed on stakeholder engagement, capacity building and knowledge-transfer to support mainstreaming, implementation, and coordination of climate change response actions by various sectors.

4. Sanitation in Schools Programme Update Report

EXCO noted the memorandum providing an update on the Sanitation in Schools Programme. The sanitation projects were distributed between the two programmes: namely, In-House and the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) programmes. The In-House programme is implemented by the Limpopo Department of Education, while the SAFE programme is implemented by the Department of Basic Education.

The In-House Programme has 216 schools. To date 157 schools have been completed, 32 are under construction and on course for completion; 08 more schools have been completed since the previous report. The report further revealed that 27 Schools were affected by either contract terminations or legal disputes and these have been allocated to the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) to appoint replacement contractors using their panel of contractors. The DBSA is currently preparing the projects for procurement through their panel of contractors to construct toilets for the 27 schools. The SAFE Programme has 303 schools. To date 282 schools have been completed, 04 more schools have been completed since the last report. The project is expected to reach final completion by end of March 2023.

5. Matters from the Central Audit Committee report for June 2022

A report providing an update on the oversight activities of the Central Audit Committee was presented. The report provided a detailed account on the feedback and recommendations made on the areas for assessment for all Departments during the Central Audit Committee meeting held on 08 August 2022.

The Executive Council resolved that there is need for an analysis of the six (06) Departments (Education, Health, Social Development, Transport and Community Safety, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Economic Development, Environment and Tourism) that received qualified audit outcomes and concerted support from the Provincial Treasury should be undertaken to move them to Clean Audit whilst the said Departments also do their part. The Office of the Premier will support the said Departments on their performance audits.

6. Forensic Investigations Update

A memorandum providing an update on the forensic investigations in the province was presented to the meeting. EXCO agreed that there is need for the

Executive Authorities to ensure that their respective Accounting Officers account for the progress made with the implementation of the various forensic report recommendations. The Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury shall arrange follow up meetings with each department to identify the reasons for the slow implementation of the various recommendations. The reviewed Forensic Investigation Strategy should be incorporated into the updated Clean Audit Strategy. The Executive Council directed that the quarterly reporting on Forensic Investigations should be extended to the local sphere of government.

7. Other reports that EXCO noted

EXCO noted reports on the progress made in the stabilisation of Mogalakwena Municipality; the rapid assessment made in the Mopani District Municipality after they received an audit disclaimer; and the progress towards the establishment of Jane Furse township. It also noted the progress in the construction of the provincial theatre as well as the progress in the application to designate Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone.

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

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