



Province of the Eastern Cape
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Statement by Eastern Cape Premier, Hon. Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane on October 3, 2023.

Programme Director:

Members of the Media

Good morning

One of the 7 priorities of the ANC-led government during this term is Building a capable, ethical, and developmental state. In the SOPA of 2023, we pronounced the need to implement various interventions including the establishment of the “**Crack Team**”, in the OTP as part of building the capacity of the state. This “**Crack Team**” which we have since named the Project Support Unit is made up of a high-powered team of leaders with proven capabilities and skills in public administration. It is a team that is formed in the same spirit as the Provincial Command Council that worked like a well-oiled machine in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The focus of the team will be to scale up the implementation of government commitments in the critical areas we have identified as lagging in our monitoring and evaluation processes. These areas are:

1. Investment Coordination
2. Support to Local Government
3. Driving Education and Health Turn Around Strategies
4. Designated groups coordination, and state machinery transformation

5. Driving strategic and catalytic projects

I want a full hands-on-deck approach in these areas of our work for maximum progress and impact. The tasks this team will be seized with require cross-cutting functions of social facilitation, change management, communication, back-office support, systems & operations.

With effect from the 1st of October 2023, I am therefore drawing from the expertise and talents of our existing human capital by seconding the following senior government officials to be part of the Project Support Unit:

1. Mr Mahlubandile Qwase,
2. Dr Rolene Wagner,
3. Mr Andile Fani,
4. Ms Siphokazi Ndudane,
5. Mr. Mzi Mafani and
6. Ms. Busisiwe Khumalo
7. Ms Athini Majikija
8. Mr Mboniswa Nodlabi

Additionally, the team at Khawuleza PMO will work closely with the Project Support Unit.

This formidable team will be led by the Director General and their base camp is now the Office of the Premier. As you can see some of the officials are Heads of Departments. We have entered into secondment agreements with the officials and their respective departments for a period of 12 months because **the tasks we are assigning them are matters of provincial importance. Ngumsebenzi lona ofuna izakhona, ulwazi, nobunkokheli babo.**

There is not going to be any vacuum or negative effect on service delivery in the departments they are coming from because they have set sound systems in place. To ensure that there is continuity in the management of operations in departments I am appointing the following officials as Acting HODs.

1. Human Settlements – Mr D. Venn (Chief Director in the department)
2. COGTA – Mr V. Mlokoti (DDG in the department)

3. Transport – Ms M. Madumane (Chief Director at Provincial Treasury)
4. Health – Ms S. Gede (Chief Director within the Department)
5. DRDAR – Mr B. Dayimani (Chief Operations Officer within the department).

These are equally capable leaders who now step up to bolster the performance of government and enhance our efforts of Building the Eastern Cape We Want. They will get all the necessary support from the EXCO.

We are making all these strategic appointments to maintain the positive momentum we are making in other areas such as:

1. Investment declarations of up to R127 billion at our third instalment of the Provincial Investment Conference.
2. Consistent decline in the unemployment rate from 47.9 % in the fourth quarter of 2020 to 39.7 % in the second quarter of 2023.
3. GDP growth of 2.1 % for 2022 which is the third highest in the country as announced by STATS SA last week, and
4. The increase in the number of departments and entities that achieved clean audits from 5 in 2018/19 to 15 in the 2022/23 performance cycle.
5. Lastly to ensure decisiveness, improve agility, impetus and turnaround time on work we are doing towards meeting our APP targets.

Let me close by assuring the people of our province, that we will continue to use every resource available to us, human and otherwise in the interest of our province and to create a better life for all our people.

I thank you

END.

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