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MEDIA UPDATE ON THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT’S MODERNISATION PROCESS

14 DECEMBER 2009

In the interests of transparency and accountability to the public we serve, today the Provincial Government of the Western Cape offers a comprehensive update of the progress it has made so far with its Modernisation process.

In June this year the Government of the Western Cape launched this process in order to increase the Provincial Administration’s service delivery capacity, specifically:

• to bring provincial government institutions on par with international best practice
• to ensure that they are fit for their respective intended purposes
• to ensure that they serve the public in a cost effective and efficient way

In order to meet these objectives, we identified four key areas that needed to be addressed, namely: legislative frameworks, organisational capacity building, physical resource management and e-Governance. We established 22 work streams to research and prepare blueprints indicating how to maximise the provincial government’s performance through improvements in each of these key areas. The work has been executed by internal staff, and has not been outsourced to consultants. All Provincial Government staff were involved in the process. Employees were continuously informed about the progress and their feedback and suggestions were included in the final blueprints.

A number of these blueprints have now in principle been approved by Cabinet pending a consultation process with the labour unions. The consultation process with the unions has now started. It is anticipated that certain parts of the programme will be ready for implementation at the beginning of the new financial year, on 1 April 2010.

The Modernisation Process is in line with our current government’s electoral mandate to deliver clean, efficient services to the citizens of this province. We particularly need a strong administration to implement the challenging delivery programmes and targets in our new 5 year strategic plan for the Province, which is close to completion. And, like many other governments across the world, we need to do this with fewer resources due to the global downturn in the economy, which has eroded governments’ tax base.

A presentation on our main progress areas to date in the Modernisation Process follows (appended below).

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