MEDIA STATEMENT

MASHININI TO CHAMPION THE NEW AND IMPROVED FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The newly appointed MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure, Mr Sam Mashinini takes office during a time when infrastructure development assumes pole-position as a key driver for economic development and radical social transformation in the Free State.

The Character, Sam Mashinini:

Mr Sam Mashinini is the sitting Provincial Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in the Free State and Northern Cape, a member of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the African National Congress, as well as a member of the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) and Provincial Working Committee (PWC) of the South African Communist Party (SACP).

It is from this rich well of experience in leadership that Sam Mashinini hopes to draw from as he gets to intimately understand the labour challenges within the flagship Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in the province as well as the many beneficiaries of the department's "labour-intensive" infrastructure projects. Sam Mashinini is a man who understands the plight of the working class very well, and as MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure, he holds the prime position towards reconfiguring and gearing the department to render services more speedily and efficiently.

It is in the backdrop of these accolades and his sharp comprehension of labour relations that positions Sam Mashinini as the unique "ace up his sleeve" in Premier Ace Magashule's cabinet. Tasked with the momentous responsibility of positioning in the newly renamed Public Works and Infrastructure department at the apex of social infrastructure development in the province, there can be no other leader more capable than him.

The State of Public Works:

Under the stewardship of his predecessor and now Speaker of the Free State Legislature, Ms ES Mabe, the department was able to successfully complete **217 capital projects** inclusive of new & special schools, state of the art hospitals, libraries, community halls, multi-purpose centres and crèches.

Through Phase II of EPWP as led by the Department of Public Works, the provincial Government was able to create in excess **233, 959** temporary work opportunities through initiatives such as Township Revitalisation Programme, Community Works Programme, National Youth Service Programme, Cemetery Maintenance Programme and Food for Waste Programme. These initiatives have benefitted many people, equipped them with critical skills and gave them hope that indeed this Government that cares deeply about their interests.

As part of concerted efforts to transform the property industry in the province, the Department continues to lease fixed property from Historically Disadvantaged Individuals (HDI) in order to create a level playing field in an industry which largely dominated by Previously Advantaged Individuals. In the past 5 years, the department spent **R168 million** on **21 HDIs**. A clear indication of the radical stance the department has assumed in the transformation of the property industry.

Ms ES Mabe leaves Public Works in satisfactory and stable condition. However, with the clarion call for more work opportunities and radical economic and social transformation, there remains a plethora of opportunities for improvement in the areas of rapid project delivery, youth and women contractor development, intensified transformation of the property industry and a more effective and radical EPWP Phase III. EPWP III will focus on up-scaling the quantity and quality of work opportunities and be developmental in nature by linking the skills development with economic growth.

The National Development Plan Contextualised:

The **National Development Plan (NDP)** presents a path for our country towards the alleviation of poverty and the reduction of inequalities. It does this, partly, by prioritising infrastructure development through the National Infrastructure Plan. The NDP propagates for investment in a strong network of economic infrastructure designed to support the country's medium- and long-term economic and social objectives. This economic infrastructure is a precondition for providing basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, telecommunications and public transport, and it needs to be robust and extensive enough to meet industrial, commercial and household needs.

In the preface of the National Infrastructure Plan, President Jacob Zuma says "*infrastructure investment is a key priority of both the National Development Plan and the New Growth Path. We are transforming the economy, directing national growth and driving job creation by implementing a long-term, government led infrastructure investment programme".* The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is at the centre of providing leadership in provincial infrastructure planning and

development and thus assumes a natural leadership role in the rollout of the National Infrastructure Plan at all touch-points with the Free State province.

Through the Social Infrastructure Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs), the department of Public works and Infrastructure under the captaincy of Sam Mashinini, will play a pivotal role in the planning, design and implementation of the revitalisation of public hospitals and other health facilities (SIP 12) to meet the requirements of the National Health Insurance (NHI) and National School Build Programme (SIP 13). SIP 13 seeks to replace inappropriate school structures and address basic service backlog and provision of basic services under the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI).

The department accepts this great national responsibility with much vigour. There are processes already underway to ensure the capacitation of both technical and administrative human resources and broader alignment of the approved Free State Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) which seeks to bring about uniformity in the planning, procurement, contract management and provisioning of government infrastructure projects.

The Mid-term Strategic Framework (MTSF):

The MTSF, under the theme, '*Together moving South Africa Forward*', is informed by the 2014 national electoral mandate and outlines the government's medium-term strategy to meet this mandate. It serves as the foremost frame of reference outlining the government's policy posture and programme to improve the conditions of life of Free State residents over the next five years.

The 2014-2019 MTSF outlines five priorities of government; those priorities are health, education, fight against crime, creation of decent work and rural development and land reform. The MTSF identifies these priorities as being critical in defining a new trajectory for the province's development.

The 2014-2019 MTSF outcomes are aligned to the National Development Plan, the Free State Growth and Development Strategy as well as the National Public Works Sector priorities. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure finds resonance with outcomes 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12 and 14:

MTSF Outcomes	Description
Outcome 3	all People in South Africa are and feel safe
Outcome 4	decent employment through inclusive economic growth
Outcome 5	a skilled and capable workforce
Outcome 6	the creation of an efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network
Outcome 8	sustainable human settlements and an improved quality of household life

Outcome 12	an efficient, effective and development oriented public service
Outcome 14	transforming society and uniting the country

The mandate of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is central to achieving all these priorities. Infrastructure development (construction) is the backbone of job creation and the base upon which all government programmes are premised. It is the primary function of Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to build schools in order to enhance the provision of basic quality education; and leading the drive for a long and healthy life for all South Africans by constructing functional and accessible hospitals.

For all these interventions to be successful, the department will continue to improve on the implementation and intervention strategies to ensure effective and sustainable service delivery.

The Path That Lay Ahead:

It is "business as usual" insofar as the department's planned projects for the 2014/2015 financial year. Through EPWP, the department will continue to build community halls, revitalise townships, incentivise the unemployed through the "food-for-cash" programme and bring about much needed relief to communities across all strata of our beautiful province. In collaboration with stakeholders, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is ready to move the Free State forward!

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Issued by Public Works and Infrastructure Communication and Media Liaison

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