



the premier

Department of  
the Premier  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **FREE STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HOLDS FRUITFUL MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR, ADVOCATE BUSISIWE MKHWEBANE**

06 November 2019

The Free State Executive Council (EXCO), led by the Acting Premier, Mr. Sam Mashinini, today met with the Public Protector, Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane at the OR Tambo Building, Bloemfontein. The Public Protector is currently embarking in Stakeholder Roadshows across all provinces with the goal to bring the institution closer to the people.

As part of the Roadshow in the province, the Public Protector has met the Speaker of the Legislature, Ms. Zanele Sifuba, and also had interactions with the community of Hobhouse, Mantsopa Local Municipality. During her session with the EXCO today, the Public Protector expressed her gratitude for the Free State EXCO to have been one of the provinces to honour her request for engagements.

She further made a detailed presentation on *Ethics and Governance – What is expected of Members of the Executive*. The EXCO warmly welcomed the presentation, and

commended the effort by the Public Protector as well as Senior Investigators from her office to come and interact with the Executive.

The EXCO noted and welcomed the Public Protector's Vision 2023, which has 8 Pillars, including but not limited to; *i) accessibility to the communities; ii) using vernacular for communities; and iii) being a safe haven for the poor and marginalised.*

The Executive Council committed to continue working with all institutions which are created to advance democracy, including the Public Protector. The EXCO also assured the Public Protector that it will also continue to encourage entities and municipalities to cooperate with the Public Protector, with the goal to enhancing democracy, accountability and good governance.

“Through direct interaction with the communities, our independent institutions are assisting us to deepen our democratic values and principles. We appreciate the visit of the Public Protector, and we will ensure that we sharpen our administrative capabilities to abide with all policies, regulations and laws of the country” – Director-General of the Free State Provincial Government, Mr. Kopung Ralikontsane said.

***Issued by the Free State Provincial Government Communication Services***

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