



**TO: ALL MEDIA
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06 MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF THE SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE FREE STATE, ON THE PREPARATIONS OF MEMORIAL SERVICES AND FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE DECEASED MEC FOR EDUCATION – PH MAKGOE.

The Free State Provincial Government's Executive Council, convened by the Premier – Honourable Mxolisi Dukwana at 10 AM, on the 6th, March, 2023, at Free State House, deliberated on and considered a number of issues emanating from the untimely and tragic demise of MEC PH Makgoe, along with his protector – Warrant Officer (W/O) – Vuyo Mdi, at about thirty minutes past midnight, on the 5th of March, 2023.

The Premier led the Executive Council in observing a moment of silence in memory of, and respect for the MEC and his protector. Accordingly on behalf of EXCO, the Premier formally confirmed the untimely demise of MEC PH Makgoe.

The Premier also weighed in and appealed to those that act against violating the dignity and sensibilities of the bereaved families, by saying and doing things on social media, as regards the circumstances that led to the fatal crash that claimed the lives of MEC Makgoe and his protector – W/O Mdi.

The Executive Council appreciated an outpour of sympathy and empathy from various organisations, individuals and indeed, the people of the Free State and the rest of the country. Not least, it also immensely appreciated the visit of Minister of Basic Education – Angie Motshekga – and a delegation of Provincial MECs for education (Limpopo, KZN and Northern Cape) which delegation along with the Premier of the Free State and the EXCO, visited MEC Makgoe’s family.

To this end, EXCO agreed to write to the President; informed by the **July 2016 State, Official and Provincial Official Funeral Policy Manual** (“the Manual”) whose purpose it is, to ‘regulate the definition and management of structures, processes and systems related to death and dying, as well as describe the responsibilities and supporting roles of the Free State Provincial Government, for purposes of MEC Makgoe’s demise. EXCO also noted that, a collaborative effort will be engaged, to provide space to SAPS, to also show their respects to W/O Mdi, during the Provincial Memorial Service.

EXCO was informed that, the family of MEC decided to inter the remains in Bloemfontein, at a cemetery that will be announced to the public in due course. In line with preparations for the burial of MEC Makgoe, a provincial memorial service will be held in Bloemfontein on Thursday, 10th March, 2023. Memorial services organised by the Provincial Department of Basic Education will be held in four other districts: Thabo Mofutsanyana, Lejweleputswa, Fezile Dabi and Xharies. Members of the public, are urged to attend all the memorial services, to pay homage to the MEC and W/O Mdi.

EXCO, in giving further expression to its resolution, established the Funeral Planning and Political Funeral Management Committees and assigned various Members of the Executive Council (MECs) and officials, to carry out assigned responsibilities and supporting roles to the bereaved families.

Following conclusion of the EXCO meeting, Minister Motshekga and Premier Dukwana, addressed a meeting of Senior Management of the Provincial

Department of Basic Education at Sentraal High School, on the legacy of MEC Makgoe and his exploits on the education landscape, and shared their reminiscences about his interactions with them in government and governance.

End

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