



GAUTENG PROVINCIAL WEEK PROGRAMME

11 September – 15 September 2023

OPENING AND WELCOMING REMARKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership collective of Gauteng led by the Premier, Hon. Lesufi Panyaza for having worked closely with us in developing this programme for the week.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this session as a follow-up to the one we convened last year in April under the Theme: “**Assessing State Capacity to Respond to the Needs of Communities**”. This is an important exercise in that it gives us the space to reflect on the work of government and to follow up on the issues raised and recommendations made.

This session takes place on the eve of the upcoming national general elections, and we are at the last mile in the life of the 6th Parliament. This is the last Provincial Week programme for this term of Parliament and therefore as we consolidate the work of this term, we need to reflect on what has been the contribution of this programme in the context of building and deepening Intergovernmental Relations and whether it has been an effective instrument in the provision of quality services to the people.



This session also takes place after a period of about two years of operating under conditions prevailing at the time characterised by severe constraints imposed by the lockdown measures to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a period during which we witnessed fierce onslaught undermining the integrity of our public infrastructure.

Programme Director, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Provincial Week programme provides an opportunity for Permanent Delegates to return to their respective provinces to interact with the leadership of the provincial legislature and representatives of the different spheres of government, with the aim of obtaining new mandates on the issues to be placed on the national agenda. The NCOP also uses this programme to assess progress that provinces and municipalities are making in delivering quality services to the people.

This programme further assists us to understand the challenges and best practices in the sphere of local government. This provides us with the necessary information to identify areas where we can support local government and make the necessary interventions.



We are going to conduct this programme jointly with the legislature under the theme “***Progress in Building Viable Provincial & Municipal Infrastructure for Effective Delivery of Services to Communities***”.

This is also an opportunity for joint and co-ordinated oversight which is central to the pursuit of co-operative government and inter-government relations. At the centre of our efforts is to raise the level of quality of oversight. Moreover, we need to establish to what extent is there collaboration between the Presidential Co-ordinating Council and Premier’s Co-ordinating Council in the context of addressing infrastructure challenges in the province and especially issues of maintenance.

The main focus is therefore on Water and Sanitation infrastructure and the provision of integrated sustainable human settlement, including an inspection of the Bree Street explosion.

The intention is to conduct oversight to ensure that policy directives, commitments and executive undertakings made are monitored and implemented. In the final analysis, we must be able to observe the extent to which state institutions contribute to changing the lives of communities. We must observe whether there is positive developmental impact on communities.



Let me emphasise that this exercise is not about finger-pointing, fault finding and therefore apportioning blame; but rather about how best cooperation is strengthened amongst the three spheres of government to provide quality services to the people.

With those few words, allow me to take this opportunity to welcome everyone present here today.

I thank you.