



**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF PROVINCES, HONOURABLE MR A. N. MASONDO,
DURING THE NCOP PROVINCIAL WEEK PROGRAMME**

PLACE: HYBRID **DATE:** 27-29 OCTOBER 2020 **TIME:** 10H00

Greetings!

Programme Director

Premier of the Province, David Makura and Member of Executive Council

Members of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures

Members of the Municipal Councils

Representatives of the South African Local Government Association
(SALGA)

Esteemed guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Programme Director, the National Council of Provinces has dedicated this week to undertake its Provincial Week programme. The programme is one of the means that the NCOP uses to inform and enrich its mandate (of

representing the provinces) to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government.

The historical purpose of the Provincial Week programme has been to give Permanent Delegates an opportunity to return to their provinces, as delegations, to deal with matters that affect their provinces.

In terms of the Constitution (Section 139(1)), a provincial executive has the authority to intervene in the affairs of the local sphere of government when the municipality cannot or does not fulfil executive obligations in terms of the Constitution or legislation. If it does, a provincial executive is required to submit a notice of intervention to the NCOP and the Cabinet member responsible for local government. Where the Constitution authorises it to do so, the NCOP must either approve or disapprove the intervention and must, while the intervention continues, regularly review it.

Programme Director, the NCOP may also make recommendations to the provincial executive. Even on termination of an intervention, the NCOP may continue to conduct oversight over the implementation of its resolutions on the municipality.

The Constitution enjoins local government to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner and strive to do so

within its financial and administrative capacity. This is according to section 152 (1) and (2) of the Constitution.

Section 154(1) compels both the national and provincial spheres of governments to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs and to perform their functions.

Pursuant to the holding of a highly successful Local Government Week last month and the debate thereon, we have noted that there is inadequate support provided by the national and provincial spheres of government to the local sphere of government. It was resolved that the Provincial Week should focus on the support provided by the national and provincial spheres to the local sphere of government as required by section 154 of the Constitution. Going forward we will have to put some emphasis on this matter.

Consistent with section 154(1) of the Constitution, this Provincial Week will therefore focus on ensuring that the national and provincial governments support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs, exercise their powers and perform their functions. If done successfully, this will limit the number of interventions in the local sphere of government. Interventions will therefore be resorted to only where the attempts to provide support have failed.

Programme Director, in line with this view, this week's programme is held under the theme: "*Ensuring Capable and Financially Sound Municipalities*". The theme is carried over from the Local Government Week programme which took place last month. Its continuation is intended to focus our efforts at assisting local government

to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner and within its financial and administrative capacity.

The programme is being implemented in all the provinces through focusing on the following:

- Key interventions to improve the financial state of the municipalities;
- Plans to address governance challenges in the municipalities; and
- The state of service delivery.

We will use the last day, Friday, to reflect on the outcome of the Provincial Week. This will help us to process the actions we need to take in order to assist in ensuring that things change for the better.

Local government forms part of our overall socio-economic transformation agenda and is the sphere of government closest to the people. Government has made key interventions in this regard. They include the District Development Model which aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery with focus on 44 Districts and 8 Metros around the country as development spaces that can be used as centres of service delivery and economic development, including job creation.

In this context, the critical work of oversight institutions is to oversee the alignment of work of the different spheres of government through the new District Development Model.

I thank you