

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

03-07-2024

## Introduction: Member of Executive Council (MEC) ECDoE - Mr Fundile Gade

The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) held a virtual meeting on 30 June 2024 with stakeholders and management to welcome the re-appointment of Mr Fundile Gade as the MEC of the Eastern Cape Department of Education. The meeting aimed to take stakeholders into confidence with the plans of the ECDoE in avoidance of surprises and confusion, particularly with the changes in the 7<sup>th</sup> administration. The MEC encouraged everyone to familiarise themselves with policies for robust engagement when the time comes, as much effort was made by stakeholders and management in developing such policies. To highlight a few critical issues, the MEC undertook to:

- Fill vacancies and appoint a cohort exceeding 700 in administrative duties.
- Fast track the appointment of the HOD.
- Prioritise skills development and, as such, an aviation school is envisaged (the Department is in the process of introducing an aviation school).

The MEC further encouraged communication with one voice as education is a societal issue. In responding, stakeholders echoed words of support and welcomed the MEC in his reappointment. Critical issues were raised relating to the following: Lack of security at schools, learner dropout, implementation of policies, prioritisation and improvement of infrastructure, and timeous payment of scholar transport. It was noted that the ECDoE was ahead in some of the issues that were raised by stakeholders and a gap in communication was realised.

The PSA welcomes and supports the reappointment of Mr Gade as the ECDoE MEC. The PSA expects the MEC to engage in meaningful consultation and dialogue regarding policy changes, budget allocations as we are soon heading for the State of the Province Address and other decisions affecting public servants in the ECDoE, whilst ensuring job security, fair treatment, and adherence to labour laws. The PSA plays a role in monitoring the MECs actions and decisions to ensure these align with the interests of public servants and may hold the MEC accountable for promises made during his introduction and throughout his tenure.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER