

MEDIA STATEMENT

MEC MAKALO MOHALE BRIEFS THE MEDIA ON KEY DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES, DESPITE DECEITFUL DISRUPTIONS

18 January 2022

The Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), condemns acts of possible cybercrime which during the media briefing which happened today. The media briefing, which was conducted in a hybrid method (both physical and virtual participation), was convened and addressed by the MEC for DESTEA, Mr Makalo Maohale, MPL, to brief the general public on key departmental activities.

During the briefing, and whilst the MEC was addressing the briefing, some participants in the ZOOM platform shared pornographic content, which also reached Facebook platform, as the event was streamed live. This incident caused the MEC to halt the briefing shortly. Contrary to the wishes of these faceless intruders, the briefing continued and was a huge success.

The MEC was able to brief the people of the Free State on the following key matters;

- a) **The Draft Free State Integrated Local Economic Development and Transformation Bill** – The Bill, which is almost at public participation stage, proposes the following amongst others; i) that Free State local municipalities shall maintain quotas for ownership of not more than 20% of foreign ownership of businesses in their areas of jurisdiction; and ii) that certain economic activities, including but not limited to tuckshops, auctioneers, motor mechanic, fresh produce, be reserved for citizens and persons with permanent residency status.
- b) **Progress on the development of Economic Sector Master Plans** – The MEC was able to announce that the department has successfully developed 11 Master Plans for specific sectors of the Free State economy. The department is also developing implementation plans from these Master Plans, with the purpose of finalizing the Free State Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan before the end of this financial year.

The DESTEA, working with all stakeholders, remain committed to building the Free State economy we all want. No amount of sabotage or hacking will derail DESTEA from creating a conducive environment for a thriving, inclusive and transformed economy of the Free State.

Working together with relevant authorities, the DESTEA shall leave no stone unturned in unmasking the faceless characters behind today's unfortunate incidents.

Reacting to these unwarranted disruptions, MEC Mohale said; ***“I won't be deterred by clumsy disruptions. I work, work and work hard for the Free State”***.

END



destea

department of
economic, small business development,
tourism and environmental affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

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