STATEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF THE FULL REPORT OF THE EASTERN CAPE RAPID ASSESSMENT OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY

The Eastern Cape Provincial Government will on Thursday, 12 June 2008, make available the full Report of the Eastern Cape Rapid Assessment of Service Delivery and Socio-Economic Survey conducted by the University of Fort Hare’s Institute for Socio-Economic Research (FHISER) in partnership with Development Research Africa (DRA) and Take Note Trading.

A précis of the report – including all the findings - has previously been provided to stakeholders early in 2007 as well as been placed on the website of the Provincial Government.

Government first commissioned the survey in 2006 after recognising that the most recent empirical data to feed into socio-economic planning processes was based on the 2001 general Census.

Government is fully aware of the extent of the daily socio-economic struggles of ordinary people in the Province and this knowledge and understanding is factored into the various programmes currently underway.

However, the Rapid Assessment of Service Delivery and Socio-Economic Survey provides the most comprehensive – and contemporaneous - empirical data for government to take forward its pro-poor mandate.

It is a key internal planning tool, but it is only one tool in Government’s armoury to ensuring service delivery meets the needs of the people of this province.

Government has access to the Rapid Assessment dataset, the recent 2007 Stats SA Community Survey dataset as well as various other national, provincial and local insights, which assists in planning and service delivery.
Government, through the various departments, agencies of state and local authorities, is comprehensively dealing with the outcomes and findings of the research. Many of these findings have been, directly and indirectly, incorporated into departmental annual performance plans, policy speeches and IDPs.

The Rapid Assessment Report’s dataset was also used to compile district municipal socio-economic profiles for the District Growth and Development Summits held in the province in the late 2006 and early 2007. The Rapid Assessment Report is also being used to assess the past and current performance of the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP), which is now in full swing. Data is also being used in the Province’s poverty reduction pilot project in the 11 poorest municipalities of the Province. The dataset was also being used to compile up-to-date Eastern Cape poverty information, which would allow provincial government to respond in a more accurate way to the needs of poor people. These poverty study reports are scheduled for release in the next few months through consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

The full report runs to 882 pages. All the recommendations have previously been provided to stakeholders, in summary format. All these documents are available through the following website address: www.ecprov.gov.za

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11 June 2008