MEDIA STATEMENT BY PREMIER MBULELO SOGONI ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL CABINET ON 01 AUGUST 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon and welcome to my first media briefing session in my capacity as Premier of the Eastern Cape. Over the next few weeks my Office will arrange meetings between government and media houses in the Province so that we may discuss matters of common interest for the good of the Eastern Cape.

As you may be aware, yesterday, in the Premier’s acceptance speech at the Legislature, we presented a government programme of action for the next remaining period of the term. You would appreciate that in that programme, we identified Health, Housing and Local government as our critical areas of focus. Hence, our approach to appointing members of cabinet has already been informed by the need to rapidly turn the situation around, and speed up service delivery.

In areas where government has generally been doing well, we have tended to retain MEC’s in those portfolios for purposes of continuity.

The reconstituted Provincial Cabinet whose members will be sworn in on Monday, 04 August 2008 is as set out below:

1. Education - Mahlubandile Qwase
2. Health - Pemmy Majodima
3. Agriculture - Gugile Nkwinti
4. Finance and Economic Development and Environmental Affairs - Phumulo Masualle
5. Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture - Noxolo Abrahams Ntantiso
6. Roads and Transport - Gloria Barry
7. Local Government and Traditional Affairs - Thokozile Xasa
8. Housing and Safety and Liaison - Thobile Mhlahlo
9. Public Works - Christian Martin
10. Social Development - Sam Kwelita

We believe that this is a balanced team that takes into account issues of experience, gender and injection of new minds in the work of Provincial Government.

I take this opportunity to wish Members of the Executive Council every success in the execution of their duties.

I THANK YOU

MBULELO SOGONI
PREMIER