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## MEDIA STATEMENT

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Date: Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Attention: Journalists, News Editors and Executive Producers

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MKHATSHWA GIVES MARCHING ORDERS TO NEW MEGA BOARD MEMBERS**

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**Mbombela** – MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Vusi Mkhatshwa, has directed the new Board members of the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) to facilitate investment of at least R100 million into the Province, by March 2022. Mr Mkhatshwa said this, when giving the marching orders to the Board members, during a two-day induction workshop of the new Board of MEGA held at Ingwenyama Conference Centre in White River earlier today (Tuesday, 14 September 2021).

“I rely on you, as the new Board members of MEGA, to bring the much-needed investment into the Province. I would, therefore, like you to develop a clear path for investment and development for the Province. In this regard, I would like you to focus on facilitating investment of at least R100 million by the end of the current financial year. Furthermore, you will have to facilitate investment of at least R1 billion in the outer years, in support of the Provincial Reconstruction and Recovery Plan”, said the MEC.

The new MEGA Board – comprising ten (10) members – was recently appointed by the Mpumalanga Executive Council, for a period not exceeding four (4) years, following the expiry of the term of office of the previous Board.

“Frankly speaking, [we acknowledge] that the Entity is characterised by a number of perennial organisational challenges, and these existential challenges have stultified the capacity of MEGA to rise to the occasion and live-up to its mandate.

“Notwithstanding the challenge, I, however, direct you to ensure that MEGA moves towards achieving unqualified audit opinion at the end of the current financial year, and a clean audit outcome in the outer years, as part of improving governance issues within the Entity”, added MEC Mkhatshwa.

The MEC further indicated that he places high hopes and trust on the collective strength of the new Board to assist the Province, in reconstructing and re-building the economy of Mpumalanga, which was affected by the COVID-19 induced lockdowns since March 2020.

“In re-building our economy after it was fundamentally destructed by the pandemic, MEGA will have to drive some of the catalytical projects outlined in the Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (MERRP).

“The revitalisation of the Industrial Hubs is one of the important tasks to be undertaken by MEGA, in order to create the conducive environment for investment attraction, and the rollout of the massive industrialisation programme. Thus, the critically-important task of rebooting the economy, rest squarely on your capable hands to turn the Entity around, and to promote Mpumalanga as an investment destination”, concluded MEC Mkhathswa.

Other marching orders given to the new MEGA Board by the MEC are the following:

- Deliver massive economic infrastructure (as per the MEGA Act) in order to create the much-needed jobs;
- Develop a clear investment promotion and attraction strategy (over the 2022/2023 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework);
- Play a critical role in strengthening township and rural economy, and also strengthen support to small businesses in the Province;
- Revitalise Industrial Hubs to grow the Provincial economy;
- Improve governance issues within the Entity;
- Deal with historic issues on the Loan Book;
- Finalise the Re-engineering process of MEGA, and ensure that all vacant posts are filled to stabilise the Entity. This includes the appointment of the CEO, which is at an advanced stage, and awaiting approval of the Executive Council;
- Strengthen the maintenance of MEGA’s property portfolio (to generate revenue for the Entity so as to reduce reliance on government funding);
- Focus on strategic projects which MEGA is implementing.

**ENDS**

***Issued by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism***

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