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ALL MEDIA HOUSES

ATT: Editors/Journalists

MEDIA STATEMENT: DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ESTABLISHES JUST ENERGY TRANSITION (JET) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

After prolonged polarization and continuous contestation by various interest groups regarding Just Energy Transition (JET)-related projects – most notably the Climate Smart Agriculture Horticulture Project implemented by Eskom and the various initiatives identified by Indalo Inclusive – the Dipaleseng Local Municipality has taken decisive action to ensure structured oversight and inclusivity in these developments.

During its Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 31st January 2025, the Council, under item C64/01/25 resolved to establish a JET Project Steering to provide a platform for accountability, transparency, and inclusive decision-making. The Executive Mayor, who also serves as the Chairperson of the Local Economic Development (LED) Forum, has been designated as the Chairperson of the JET PSC. The committee will further comprise one representative from key stakeholders to ensure broad-based participation and oversight.

In a related development, the Mpumalanga Middleburg High Court, in the matter between Eskom and LED Forum members, including the Executive Mayor and the MMC for Planning & Economic Development, on the 13th February 2025, struck off the roll the urgency to interdict in the implementation of the Climate Smart Agriculture Horticulture Project. The legal outcome paves the way for continued negotiations in the execution of this initiative without further hindrance.

Given these developments, the establishment of the JET PSC is a critical step toward ensuring that all JET- related projects in Dipaleseng are implemented in a transparent, accountable, and inclusive manner benefiting the local economy and communities.

The municipality remains committed to working with all stakeholders to drive sustainable economic development while ensuring Just Energy Transition projects serve the collective interests of our communities.

ENDS

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