

## Suggested speaking notes at the Launch of the Kouga Wind Farm Community Development Trust – Community Development Plan:

Hon MEC M Mvoko

### Fostering local inclusivity and growth through economic infrastructure:

In celebrating the Kouga Wind Farm Community Development Trust, we are also celebrating local community ownership<sup>1</sup> of an energy infrastructure facility.

The energy infrastructure consists of 32 wind turbines generating approximately 300 million Kilowatt Hours per year of electricity, enough to supply approximately 50 000 average households with electricity annually. It is heartening to see meaningful local economic participation in infrastructure development that is making a difference to our current energy situation.

Infrastructure is at the foundation of our national and provincial economic recovery and reconstruction processes. Renewable energy infrastructure has emerged as one of the key opportunities which could not only improve the supply of energy in the province, but also play a catalytic role in job creation, industrial development and meaningful economic transformation.

### EC Provincial Wind and Solar Farms, and Socio-Economic Commitments and Outcomes:

The province pursues a mandate of deepening local inclusion in the economy, together with meaningful transformation. Local ownership by means of community trusts, and local enterprise development are shining examples of the transformative potential of the new energy generation programme.

To date there are 16 Wind farms and one solar farm constructed in the Eastern Cape province. Over their 20-year life span these facilities have made significant commitments towards development in their surrounding communities. These include commitments of R4.6 Billion towards socio-economic development and R1.2 Billion towards enterprise development, as well as R7 Billion in net income to community trusts.

We are told by the Independent Power Producer office of the Department of Minerals and Energy that these facilities in the Province, some of which have only recently completed construction, have so far already spent R90 Million on Enterprise Development in local communities and R330 Million on Socio-Economic Development Projects in local communities.

### The Socio-Economic Contribution of the Kouga Wind Farm

In terms of socio-economic development commitments, we note that the Kouga Wind Farm has played its part. The wind farm has contributed towards education and literacy, skills

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<sup>1</sup> The community trust owns 26% of the wind farm.

development and training, healthcare and recreation in the communities around the wind farm.

#### [Coming to fruition: Kouga Wind Farm Community Development Trust](#)

It is most encouraging to see that over and above these Socio-Economic Development commitments, the Kouga Wind Farm Community Development Trust has reached a point where it too is implementing projects in the beneficiary community from the proceeds of the wind farm.

We have noted the many initiatives in the Community Development Plan for the trust, including education and skills development, welfare and humanitarian support, sports, arts, and recreation, enterprise development and healthcare among others. We also note that the trust will be upgrading public facilities and building new amenities.

#### [Doing more by doing it together: The Intergovernmental-IPP Forum:](#)

So much more can be done if we do it together. Both the local and district municipality as well as the provincial government were part of the proceedings at the inauguration of the Kouga Wind Farm in September 2015. At that inauguration it was agreed that a forum should be formed so that the wind farms, non-governmental groups and all spheres of government could plan together to ensure that we are delivering a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts.

An Intergovernmental-Independent Power Producer forum has subsequently been launched and operates under the umbrella of the Sarah Baartman District Municipality. This platform ensures alignment between government priorities and resources, and Power Producer socio-economic initiatives. Overall the aim is to foster collaboration in order to optimise the benefits to local communities.

In the province we see strong alignment between the work of the Kouga Wind Farm Community Development Trust and our Provincial social, local economic development, informal business development, and cooperative development programmes. The same will be said by both the Sara Baartman District Municipality and the Kouga Local Municipality.

We would welcome the Kouga Wind Farm Community Development Trust to work with us.

By working together, we will ensure the best for all.

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