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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA BRIEFING BY MEC WM MORWENG ON SCHOLAR TRANSPORT PAYMENT

GD Montshioa Airport - Mmabatho

Head of the Department, Dr Hans Kekana

CFO Mme Kutlwano Phatudi

Chief Director for Transport Operation, Mme Mpho Rantona

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

We called you here this morning to update you on the measures we are putting in place to address the challenges experienced in the provision of the scholar transport service. There had been many challenges that the scholar transport experienced and we had to implement these measures to deal with them. These measures include establishing what we call the 'War Room' led by the HOD to resolve problems as they arise and we work together closely with our sister Department of Education.

When the current contract began, we had 446 operators and in the service level agreement (SLA) we had with them, there are compliance clauses which guide steps to be taken when there are contraventions. The contravention as per the SLA include amongst others, unroadworthy busses, failure to transport learners and endangering the safety of the learners. As we speak now, we had already terminated 90 operators for one or more of the of the contraventions mentioned above.

"Let's Grow North West Together"



On the delay of payments, we had received 928 invoices and to date 552 have been processed. We experienced a system failure which affected processing of these payments. As a result, we have requested the Treasury to allow us to disburse two payments per week instead of one. We are now disbursing payments on Tuesdays and Fridays. We have already had two meetings with operators to explain challenges experienced. We are continuing with this engagement to keep operators abreast so that learners do not suffer.

As part of intervention to ensure that operators are paid within the stipulated 30-day period, we are implementing a system used at national government called 'Re a patala'. It is an invoice tracking system that will assist us to quickly track and addresses areas where invoices get delayed. We are currently using manual invoice tracking system which is problematic and prone to errors.

One other problem with the manual system is that we are unable to see where there are delays in the value chain. 'Re a patala' will be monitored daily and will assist in expediting payments once invoices are captured.

Challenges experienced are regretted but we do all we can to ensure that there are no further delays in processing payments. As has already indicated, engagement with operators is on-going. We would also like to express our profound thanks to the operators for continuing to transport learners in spite of delays in payments.

Thank you very much.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

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