

**Message by the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs,
Honourable Nomusa Dube, at the uMsunduzi Media Briefing.**

Honourable Mayor, Mr Mike Tarr;

Members of the Executive;

Council Members present;

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media;

All protocol observed;

First and foremost we want to state that, a Provincial intervention within a municipality, in terms of the Constitution, is a drastic measure which is only undertaken as a last resort.

Provincial government has the duty to take an active interest in ensuring the development of strong local government, capable of fulfilling its Constitutional mandate. Provincial government must not only monitor and support local government, it must also exercise provincial supervision when necessary.

In the case of Msunduzi the original support provided to the municipality did not achieve the success which was anticipated. There was a lack of co-operation from certain senior managers and information required to formulate a comprehensive financial recovery plan was not forthcoming. There remained a sense of inertia amongst the administrative leadership which rendered the administration dysfunctional.

Accordingly, the Provincial Executive was compelled to intervene as a last resort, and Mr Johan Mettler was appointed to administer the municipality in accordance with set terms of reference.

We are satisfied that the intervention has proceeded well and that financial stability has been achieved. The report that the Mayor has just presented is testimony of the improvement that has been recorded. The financial stability, coupled with measures

taken to ensure good governance, will translate into improved service delivery for benefit of the community.

We welcome the decision taken against those Senior Managers implicated in acts of wrong doing. We expect every official from the uMsunduzi Municipality to look after the interest of the municipality and to comply with all regulations aimed at promoting good and clean governance within the Municipality. We expect Senior Managers to be the pillars of support and to lead by example. We are waging a real war against maladministration, mismanagement and corruption in uMsunduzi. We are combat ready to eliminate all the bad elements that have disgraced this City of Choice. We cannot expect those who have presided over the collapse of this municipality to be the ones that guide it out of its predicament. With the action taken and those we will continue to take, we are sending a strong message to all staff that we will not tolerate incompetence, maladministration and corruption or any form of disloyalty to the residents of uMsunduzi. We are happy that the municipal executive committee, the Council and the municipal officials can now exercise oversight and fulfil legislative obligations.

The gains made in terms of the intervention would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of the Mayor, Speaker, Exco and councillors. The professional approach of the Administrator Mr Mettler, and his support team has resulted in key milestones being achieved and we must express a word of appreciation and gratitude in this, respect.

We trust that the momentum gained in the intervention process will be maintained and that the improved governance and service delivery, commitments of the municipality to the community will be sustained well into the future.