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**3rd ANNUAL PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMIST FORUM CONGRESS**

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| **Meeting No:** | **01 of 2011** | **Date:** | **29-30 November 2011** |
| **Venue:** | **Protea Hotel Kruger Gate** | **Time:** | **08h30** |

**MINUTES**

1. **OPENING AND WELCOME**

The programme director Mr Lennard van Vuren welcomed the members and thanks the members for attending.

1. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

* The attendance register is attached.
* Limpopo and North West Province were not represented and also did not submit apologies

|  | | | **Item** | **Action & Due Date** |
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| **3.1** | **SESSION 1** | | | |
| **3.1.1** | **Opening address**  The Honourable MEC for Finance at Mpumalanga Province Mrs YN Phosa welcomed members and delivered her opening remarks. The MEC’s speech has been made available to all members with a request that members should submit the speech to their principles as well. | |  |
| **3.1.2** | **Programme objectives and house rules**  Program director thanked the MEC for her words of wisdom and her well wishes. He said that there are many challenges that provincial government economist faces in executing their daily duties, which include amongst other the shortage of data, etc. The programme director made it very clear that the aim of the congress is to tackle these challenges. The programme director then presented the program. | |  |
|  | **3.1.3** | **Chairperson’s report**  The current chairman Mr Clive Coetzee thanked the MEC for Finance at Mpumalanga Province for her words of wisdom and well wishes and Mr Lennard van Vuren for hosting the congress. He said the forum has made good progress since the inaugural congress in 2009. This is supported by the fact that the forum is still going and going fairly strongly given that the forum now has 96 members and the membership is growing.  He stated that a solid foundation is now in place, but did caution that a number of expectations have not yet been met and that the level of interaction is still very low. Many members are not actively participating and should give moiré support to the steering committee.  He read the term of reference to remind members of why the forum and the congress and the vision and mission of the forum. All members were requested to actively promote the forum to their principles and colleagues. | |  |

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| **4** | **SESSION 2: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA/STATISTICS ON A SUB NATIONAL LEVEL**  **CHAIR OF SESSION - PORTIA SEMECO** | | | |
| **4.1** | **Global Insight**  Mr Henk Gnade made a presentation. | |  |
| **4.2** | | **Institute of Race Relations**  Mr Shewin Black made a presentation. |  |
| **4.3** | **Quantec and Statistics South Africa**  Chairman Mr Clive Coetzee presented on behalf of Quantec. | |  |
|  | **4.4** | **Open discussion**  The presenters were thanked for their presentations and their willingness to address and engage with the congress. All presentations have been made available and members were encouraged to make contact with the various presenters.  Mr Clive Coetzee argued that Statistics SA has a mandate to obtain or gather data from municipalities and on a local level and suggested that the forum should send a letter to Statistics SA wrt the local data issues. It was suggested that he compile a draft letter. The daft letter must be send to the members for their comments and suggestions before the letter is send to Stats SA. | | **Mr Clive Coetzee**  **All Members** |

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| **5** | **SESSION 3: TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**  **CHAIR OF SESSION - ASHLEY RASOOL** | | | |
| **5.1** | **University of Pretoria and ERSA**.  Dr Nara Monkam made a presentation. | |  |
| **5.2** | **TIPPS**  Mr Evens K Chinembri made a presentation. | |  |
|  | **5.3** | **Palama**  Dr Shezi made a very brief presentation and stated that Palama does not offer training for economists per se. Palame offer general training | |  |
|  | **5.4** | **Conningarth Economists**  Dr David Mullins made a presentation. | |  |
|  | **5.5** | **Open discussion**  The presenters were thanked for their presentations and their willingness to address and engage with the congress. All presentations have been made available and members were encouraged to make contact with the various presenters.  The price and availability of suitable training opportunities were discussed at length and it was suggested that current and potential training institutions be approached in order to facilitate partnerships to train and develop members on a cost effective and flexible basis. | | **All Members** |

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| **6** | **SESSION 4: ECONOMIC RESEARCH PAPERS**  **CHAIR OF SESSION - ITUMELENG MOSES** | | | |
| **6.1** | **Economic Impact of Mpumalanga Government Infrastructure Expenditure in the Rural Areas**  Presentation was made by Mr Jacobus Verster from the Mpumalanga Department of Finance. | |  |
| **6.2** | **Sub-National Macro–Economic Impacts – a different approach**  Presentation was made by Mr Gerhard Bijker from Global Insight. | |  |
|  | **6.3** | **Local Municipality Productive Efficiency and its Determinants in South Africa**  Presentation was made by Dr Nara Monkam from the University of Pretoria. | |  |
|  | **6.4** | **Open discussion**  Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and/or to make statements where after each presented were given an opportunity to respond.  The presenters were thanked for their presentations and their willingness to address and engage with the congress. All presentations have been made available and members were encouraged to make contact with the various presenters. | | **All Members** |

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| **7** | **SESSION 5: ECONOMIC RESEARCH PAPERS**  **CHAIR OF SESSION - VANESSA FREDERICKS** | | | |
| **7.1** | **Employment Intensity of Economic Growth in the Free State Province**  Presentation was made by Mr Itumeleng Moses from the Free State Treasury. | |  |
| **7.2** | **Nationalisation of Mines in SA**  Presentation was made by Mr O.S. Omoshoro-Jones from the Free State Treasury. | |  |
|  | **7.3** | **Provincial Economic Review and Outlook 2011**  Presentation was made by Mr Bonginkosi Mamba from the Western Cape Treasury. | |  |
|  | **7.4** | **Business Confidence in KZN**  Presentation was made by Mr Clive Coetzee from KZN Treasury. | |  |
|  | **7.5** | **The Impact of the Global Meltdown on Banking Regulation and Supervision**  Due to time constraints Dr Jaco Mostert, from the Northern Cape Province Department of Economic Development, could not deliver his paper. | |  |
|  | **7.6** | **Open discussion**  Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and/or to make statements where after each presented were given an opportunity to respond.  The presenters were thanked for their presentations and their willingness to address and engage with the congress. All presentations have been made available and members were encouraged to make contact with the various presenters. | | **All Members** |

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| **8** | **Closure** | | | |
| **8.1** | The outgoing chairperson thanked the members for attending and actively participating in the deliberations. He gave a special thanks to the Mpumalanga team for planning and organising the congress. The outgoing chairperson announced that he is stepping down as chairman of the Forum. Lennard van Vuren from the Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury is the incoming chairman as selected at the 2010 congress. The current members of forum steering committee will, however, remain the same, but it was suggested that members from the various provincial Economic Development and Tourism Departments also be represented in the steering committee, since the current steering committee only consist of Treasury members. | | **Current Steering Committee Members** |
| **8.2** | The program director Mr Lennard van Vuren thanked Mr Clive Coetzee for his chairmanship over the last two years. He thanked everyone for participating in the 2011 congress and also stressed the issue of Economic Development and Tourism members not being sufficiently represented in the steering committee.  It was suggested and tentatively adopted that the 2012 congress would be in the Free State province and that the chairman for 2013 should be Mr Itumeleng Moses.  It was also suggested and adopted that the next forum steering committee should be in Eastern Cape province. | | **Mr Itumelang Moses**  **and**  **Ms Vanessa Fredericks** |
|  | **8.3** | 1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**   Date : End November 2012  Venue : Free State Province  The congress adjourned at 10:00. | | **Free State Members** |

**Approved:**

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**Mr Clive Coetzee Date**

**Chairman**