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OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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To: The Premier of the Eastern Cape

Cc: Hon. R.S. Stevenson

Hon. Dr. M. Gondwe, MP

29 November 2023

Request for Provincial Government intervention in Eastern Cape ports' crisis

Dear Premier

You are no doubt aware of the current logistics and related crises surrounding our ports in the Eastern Cape and the effect this will have on our economy.

The people of the Eastern Cape demand of you to play a key role in preventing the looming economic crisis which will follow if urgent action is not taken.

Recent comments from a senior executive at Volkswagen indicate that our major job creating industries are running out of patience. They must be taken seriously as key stakeholders who contribute towards our shared objective of growing the economy and creating jobs.

The urgency of this situation demands of you to play a meaningful role by agitating for the people of the Eastern Cape and facilitating solutions to the ports' crisis.

I would like to recommend the following urgent actions to be taken by your office:

1. Insist that national government partner with the provincial government and all relevant stakeholders to work together to overcome the immediate challenges.
2. Invite the private sector to play a meaningful and constructive role in resolving the short term port related challenges by providing advice, services and, where necessary, resources.
3. Initiate a 'ports work stream' in your office inclusive of all relevant stakeholders (including the private sector) to look beyond the current crisis in order to develop innovative proposals on future port operating models that would be more efficient.

The provincial government cannot abdicate its duty to the people of the Eastern Cape and allow national government to hold our economy hostage. The provincial government must demand solutions and fight for the people of our province.

Kind Regards

Andrew Whitfield, MP