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## government communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### **Statement on the Cabinet meeting held on 02 March 2011**

Cabinet noted progress to date on preparations for the 2011 Local Government Elections. The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs will be gazetting regulations on the participation of municipal staff members in the election in due course.

Cabinet noted the report of the 1<sup>st</sup> conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in August 2010 and approved that South Africa hosts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference in 2012. Hosting this conference will further advance the objectives of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) as a strategic priority of the African Union.

Cabinet approved a majority equity stake in SunSpace by Government. Funding to keep SunSpace intact will be made available through the usual budget processes of Government. The Minister of Science and Technology will provide a detailed business case for the retention of SunSpace especially as it relates to the strategic imperatives of Government. The Ministers of Science and Technology and Communications will collaborate on this matter.

Cabinet approved the hosting of the World Water Day in Cape Town on 22 March 2011 by the United Nations Habitat in partnership with the African Ministers Council on Water. The World Water Day will take place during the National Water Week Campaign between 20 – 27 March 2011 throughout the country. The Department of Water Affairs will also partner with the World Water Council in hosting the Board of Governors meeting from 18 – 19 March 2011.

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Cabinet wishes to assert that every South African and legitimate legal persona from anywhere in the world has the right to conduct business in South Africa. It strongly condemns the use of the names of the President and Cabinet members in the pursuit of private business deals and urges those who may be doing so to stop the practice.

Cabinet has noted media reports on the medical facility at the Presidential Estate and wishes to clarify the matter. The Presidential Medical Unit (PMU) has been operating from the Presidential Estate since 1998 to provide medical support to the President, Deputy President as well as former Presidents and Deputy Presidents and foreign dignitaries. On occasion it had had to treat medical emergencies.

The unit has been housed in a caravan ever since. In 2006 a decision was taken to refurbish the facility to ensure that it complies with the primary health care standards. Any further details on the matter can be obtained from the Department of Public Works.

After careful analysis of the education situation in the Eastern Cape and following a number of consultations with the leadership of the province and the Minister of Education's visit to the province on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Cabinet has decided to invoke Section 100 (b) of the Constitution to maintain essential national standards of education in the province while at the same time ensuring that established minimum standards for the rendering of education are met.

Cabinet is of the firm view that this intervention, which is being made in the spirit of cooperative governance, will pave the way for an immediate resolution to all pressing matters in the provincial Department of Education. Minister of Education Mrs Angie Motshekga will later today provide more details during a press conference to be held at 13h00 in East London.

Cabinet praised the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for having picked up positive serological results for Foot and Mouth Disease in the northern KwaZulu-Natal during routine surveillance in the protection zone for the disease. The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is currently visiting the affected area and will issue a detailed statement in an hour's time.