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Department of
Treasury
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Farewell Message by Free State Provincial Treasury Head of Department Mr Godfrey Mahlatsi

Mrs Fourie

Today it is an honor for me to bid farewell to the person who, for the duration of her service to the Provincial government of the Free State and the Government of South Africa, understood very well that it is a privilege and not a right for us to occupy these high offices that we occupy, who also understood that we are not at work to earn a salary but to serve selflessly, that we are not dealing with our own money but the public purse, that South Africa has temporarily trusted us with this huge responsibility of ensuring that we build this country for the better, that we should hand over our Province and our country intact to the new generation and to generations to come.

The Free State society owes you gratitude for the role you have played in ensuring good governance and prudent financial management in our Province.

I was determined to bid farewell to you in person, Mrs Fourie, and I wanted it to be the best ever, knowing that you have always and always given your very best in whatever task you were faced with in the workplace. However because I'm here to serve and because I respect authority as much as you do, I had to take the conscious decision to obey the instruction of my principals and leave for BELARUS to represent our principals.

I guess this is the best time for you to re-introduce yourself to the loved ones who have always unselfishly allowed you to serve the people of the Free State and the people of South Africa.

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It has indeed been an honor working with a wonderful colleague like you these past years. Having the privilege of working with you has been among the highlights of my time at the Free State Provincial Treasury. Those who failed to appreciate and learn from your wisdom, have lost a great opportunity. We have been fortunate to work with such a knowledgeable, experienced, dependable, supportive, encouraging, and honest person during your time at the Provincial Treasury and we have learned and benefited a lot from you as a colleague.

Let me also take this moment to personally acknowledge the deep gratitude I have for your many kindnesses and unwavering support during all of the years that I worked with you. The memories of our struggles and your support will stay in my heart, I wish you all of the best with your retirement. You are among the best colleague I have ever worked with during the 26 years of my career. I would rather prefer you to see this event not as your farewell but an event to thank you.

I would like you to go through Psalm 121 during your retirement period not once but again and again, it reads thus:

The Lord Our Protector

1. I look to the mountains; Where will my help come from?
2. My help will come from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth?

3. He will not let you fall, Your protector is always awake.
4. The protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps.
5. The Lord will guard you; he is by your side to protect you.
6. The sun will not hurt you during the day, nor the moon during the night.
7. The Lord will protect you from all danger, he will keep you safe.
8. He will protect you as you come and go now and forever.

Please enjoy your retirement period with the family but keep doors open for us. We (MEC and myself) would like to go out with you for lunch when the MEC comes back from the US trip. God Bless You now and forevermore. We thank you from the bottom of our heart.

Thank you.

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