**ADDRESS BY PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE MARKING INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES HELD AT UTHUKELA DISTRICT ON 03 DECEMBER 2022**

Programme Director;

Members of the Executive Council;

Members of the Legislature;

Mayors and Councillors;

AmaKhosi neziNduna;

Members of the Disability Sector;

Non-Governmental Organisations;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning!

**INTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Namuhla sigubha umhla zinga-3 kuZibandlela **okuwuSuku** **Lwamazwe Ngamazwe** lokuhlonipha Abantu abakhubazekile, olugujwa eNingizimu Afrika njengoSuku Lomhlaba Lokuqwashisa Ngamalungelo abakhubazekile.

Namuhla sikuvuthondaba lwalo mkhankaso njengoba siqalile izolo ngokuthi sinikeze umbiko kwisiShayamthetho, nalapho besiveza, sinikeza izimpendulo ukuthi ingakanani inqubekela phambili esesiyenzile ukuqinisekisa ukunikezwa kwamathuba alinganayo kwabakhubazekile kuyona yonke imikhakha.

Indikimba yalo nyaka yeNyanga Yokuqwashisa Ngamalungelo Abakhubazekile ithi *“****Ukunikeza Abantu Abakhubazekile Amandla ngendawo enezinsiza, esimeme, futhi ephephile/ “Empowering Persons with Disabilities through resourceful, sustainable and safe environments”.***

Minyaka yonke ngomhlaka 3 December siyhlangana sibeke obala izinselelo abantu bakithi abakhubazekile abasabheken nazo. Siphinde sibheke izithiyo nokusenza siqonde kangcono ngabantu abakhubazekile.

Njalo uma sihlangene sizuza kakhulu thina njengoHulumeni ngoba sisuke sizizwela bezikhulumela njengemkhakha wabakhubazekile.

**28 YEARS OF ADDRESSING DISABILITY**

Namuhla sikwiNgqophamlando yeminyaka engu 28 yamalungelo abantu abakhubazekile ngaphansi kwenqubo yentando yeningi. Lokhu kusho ukuthi njengoba ngibekile izolo, kukhulu osekwenziwe kwinqubomgomo kanye nasezinhlelweni ezahlukene ukuhlinzeka abakhubazekile.

Kufanele njengoba sizibophezele samukele izindlela ezintsha zokufeza izidingo zabakhubazekile.

Abantu abaningi bayakhohlwa ukuthi eminyakeni eyandulela intando yeningi ngo-1994, amalungelo abakhubazekile ayengathathwa njengengxenye yamalungelo abantu bonke eNingizimu Afrika.

Uhulumeni wobandlululo wayenakekela abakhubazekile kuphela uma bephuma ohlangeni oluthile. Uma wawungum-Afrika futhi ukhubazekile emsebenzini, kwakuphakathi kwakho nomqashi wakho kuphela. Umqashi wayekunika isinxephezelo sakho abe eseyakudiliza uyogulela ekhaya. Kwakungekho sibopho esisemthethweni sokunxephezela ngendlela efanele labo abalimala emsebenzini, nabadilizwayo ngoba bengasakwazi ukusebenza.

Ngalolu suku sibungaza igxathu esilihambile njengoHulumeni weNtando yeNingi ekubhekaneni nezidingo zalabo abakhubazekile.

**THE CURRENT STATE OF THE DISABILITY SECTOR**

UHulumeni wentando yeningi uyazibophezela ukubhekela abakhubazekile. Bayanda abakhubazekile abathola ukuqashwa nguHulumeni. Njengamanje sesilinyusile inani laya ku-7%. Sesikhiphe umyalelo othi uma sihlangana ngonyaka ozayo akufanele kube nomnyango kaHulumeni noma uMasipala ongaqashile abakhubazekile abakulesi sibalo esisemgomweni wethu.

Sikhuthaza abakhubazekile ukuba bafake izicelo nezikhangiso zomsebenzi zizocacisa ukuthi izicelo ezizokwamukelwa ngezabakhubazekile kuyona yonke iminyango nomasipala. Sifuna ukwenza kunokukhuluma.

Sidinga ukuwukhipha umqondo wokuthi kunemisebenzi abantu abakhubazekile abangakwazi ukuyenza ngenxa yokukhubazeka.

Ukukhubazeka kungenzeka kunoma ngubani noma nini. Kungaba ngenxa yokugula, ingozi emsebenzini, ekhaya kodwa lokho ngeke kusho ukuthi awusenalo ikhono.

Ukuvulela abakhubazekile amathuba kusiza umnotho, akuyona into yokuyenza ngoba ugcina icala noma ukuzama ukuthobela umthetho. Makwenziwe ngenhloso yokwenza umehluko ezimpilweni zabakhubazekile.

NgokweCensus yakamuva izinga labantu abaphila nokukhubazeka lifinyelele ku-7.5% kanti ukukhubazeka kudlange kakhulu kwabesifazane uma kuqhathaniswa nabesilisa.

Abantu abamnyama base-Afrika benza ingxenye enkulu yabantu abakhubazekile belandelwa abamhlophe. Kuliqiniso futhi ukuthi ngokwezibalo ezitholakalayo, ukusabalala kokukhubazeka kuhambisana ngqo nobudala, futhi abantu abangaphezu kuka-50% abaneminyaka engaphezu kwengu-85 babika ukuthi banokukhubazeka.

Lokhu kusho ukuthi sibona ukukhubazeka kungena uma abantu bekhula, futhi lokhu kwenza labo abakhubazekile babe sengozini enkulu. Kusikhumbuza nokuthi uma sibusiswe ngokwanele ukuba siguge, nathi sidle izinyoni zabantwana bethu, sonke sisethubeni lokuthola ukukhubazeka kohlobo oluthile.

Sonke singathola ukukhubazeka futhi ngeke sijabule uma abantu besicwasa ngenxa yokuthi sesikhubazekile.

Kuphinde kwatholakala ukuthi kukhona ukuxhumana phakathi kobubha kanye nokukhubazeka. Abantu abakhubazekile yibona abasengcupheni yobubha ngenxa yokushoda kwamathuba nezinsiza zomnotho.

Ngakwelinye icala, ubumpofu nabo buvame ukwandisa amathuba okukhubazeka ngenxa yokuntuleka kwezinsiza zezempilo nemali yokuya kodotokela abayiziphesheli.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DISABILITY**

Kuleli sonto iKhabhinethi kazwelonke ithole umbiko mayelana nezindleko Zomnotho Zokukhubazeka eNingizimu Afrika ogunyazwe uMnyango Wezokuthuthukiswa Komphakathi kanye noMnyango Wezabesifazane, Izingane, Intsha kanye Nabantu Abakhubazekile.

Okunye okubalulekile okutholwe yilo mbiko ukuthi izibonelelo zikaHulumeni zikhokhela ngokuphelele izindleko zokukhubazeka. Kodwa-ke, ngemuva kokukhokha izindleko zokukhubazeka, imali esalayo kwizibonelelo zikaHulumeni ayisakwazi ukubhekana nezindleko ezinye zokuphila.

Ucwaningo lubonisa phakathi kokunye, ukuthi iNingizimu Afrika idinga ngokushesha ukusungula amasu okuhlangabezana nezindleko zokukhubazeka zonke. Ucwaningo luthole futhi ukuthi “abesifazane abakhubazekile bayabandlululwa kakhulu”.

Sithola ukuthi lokhu kuholela emazingeni aphezulu kakhulu odlame lobulili (GBV) oluqondiswe kwabesifazane abakhubazekile.

Abesifazane abakhubazekile basemathubeni aphindwe kabili okuba yizisulu zokuhlukunyezwa ngokocansi, ukudlwengulwa kanye nodlame olusondelene nabalingani (Inter-partner violence)”.

Siyanxusa kubaqashi ezimbonini ezizimele ukuba kuphele imibono engqubuzanayo ngokuphathwa nokuqashwa, nokunikezwa imisebenzi kubantu abakhubazekile.

Akulona iqiniso ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile abanazo izinkampani zokufaka amathenda emisebenzi. Akulona iqiniso ukuthi amakhandideyiti afundele imisebenzi ethize emihle nemikhulu kwabakhubazekile awekho.

Njengoba sizoqapha uhlelo kuHulumeni noMasipala, kuzofanele sifake izikhuthazi kubaqashi ukuqasha abantu abakhubazekile. Kuzofanele sibheke imigomo yamaphoyinti uma kukhishwa imisebenzi ngokwenqubo ye-BBBEE. Uma ingasisebenzeli kufanele ichitshiyelwe.

**EVOLVING DISABILITY APPROACH IN 2022**

Izinhlelo zokubhekela abakhubazeka sezisukile kumbono wokuthi ukukhubazeka yilokhu okubonakalayo kuphela. Namuhla sesibheka izithiyo zesimo sengqondo kanye nazo zonke izinto ezivimbe ukuthi abanokukhubazeka bafeze amaphupho abo.

Ukukhubazeka akukhona ukuba nokukhubazeka ngokomzimba kodwa kungenziwa abantu ngendlela abaphatha ngayo abantu abakhubazekile.

KwaZulu-Natal sifuna ukubhekana nazo zonke izithiyo ezikhona kubantu abadala, izingane kanye nabantu abasha abakhubazekile.

Lokhu sizokwenza ngokuthatha izinyathelo zokuqinisekisa ukuthi labo abakhubazekile abaphucwa izinsiza.

Akufanele futhi bancishwe ukuqeqeshwa ngamakhono, ukunakekelwa nokusekelwa okudingekayo ukuze bafinyelele lapho befisa bona ukufika khona ngokwempilo.

**SPORT IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF INCLUSIVITY FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES**

Ngifisa ukuthatha leli thuba ukubonga umkhakha wezemidlalo, amasiko nezokungcebeleka osekuhambe phambili kwaba ngukukhanya ekuthuthukisweni kwalabo abakhubazekile.

Ayikho enye imboni engiyicabangayo emhlabeni eye yasebenza kanzima njengeSport ukwenza amathuba abantu abakhubazekile.

Ezemidlalo zihlukile ngoba zenza ukuthi labo abakhubazekile babonakale yonke indawo nakuzwelonke njengoba ezemidlalo zithandwa yiwo wonke umuntu.

Through sport, persons with disabilities can acquire the profile that empowers them to speak authoritatively for the sector, and to lead the change we need in society to create a better environment for those with disabilities.

The UN reports that 93% of women with disabilities are not involved in sport, and that women comprise only one-third of athletes with disabilities in international competitions. Sport can therefore be used as a powerful transformative tool against gender discrimination as women experience double discrimination on the basis of their sex and disability.

Kulo nyaka esizowuqala u2023, sizosebenza ngesivinini ukuze sifinyelele ku-100% wokuthi izinqola zokuthutha umphakathi zikulungele ukukhubazeka nezifinyeleleka kalula.

Siyacela nabakhubazekile ukuthi bangesabi ukuzisho, ukuthi ukukhubazeka kwakho kuyabonakala noma akubonakali, siyakunxusa ukuthi uphumele obala ufune ukwesekwa.

Zonke izakhiwo zikaHulumeni kufanele zilungele ukutsethenziswa ngabantu abakhubazekile.

Our message for this International Day of People living with Disabilities is that the rights of those with disabilities are human rights which are protected by the Constitution which is the highest law in the land.

Any violation of the rights of those with disabilities is a violation of the Constitution.

We hold this international commemoration because, as we join the global community today, we will not allow those with disabilities to be left behind as we move to build a better KwaZulu-Natal.

The voices of the disability sector matter and our regular engagements throughout the year will ensure that we continue to elevate persons with disabilities with decent jobs and not donations.

The entire provincial government has a responsibility to create a barrier-free and safe environment for everyone, which includes persons with disabilities.

When it is not disability inclusive, it is not inclusion.

This means that we will work with speed to move towards 100% disability-friendly and accessible public transport. We also call on those with disabilities not to be afraid to declare themselves whether your disability is visible or invisible, we urge you to come forward and seek support.

Not all disabilities are visible, and it is sometimes up to the individual or families to declare. We believe that the empowerment of persons with disabilities will empower KwaZulu-Natal, and in the end empower South Africa to achieve more.

We therefore commit government to work with the sector to create properly resourced and sustainable environments for disability in all our government offices and buildings. No new government building will be approved unless it caters for those with disabilities.

We will also continue to capacitate those with disabilities so that they can actively contribute to the economic growth and development of the province. The disability does not stop you from doing what you want to achieve, and an empowered disability sector has the potential to become a major contributor to a better South Africa.

Siyazibophezela singuHulumeni ukuqeda nya ukubukeleka phansi nokungaqondi ngabantu abakhubazekile. Sizosebenza ngokuzikhandla ukuqinisekisa ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile bazizwa beyingxenye yesiFundazwe neZwe labo.

**Thank you!**