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The report was presented to the Cabinet which sat in Newcastle yesterday by a Joint Task Team of government officials who conducted the investigation. Cabinet praised the team for a job well done for saving the tax payer huge sums of money by utilizing existing expertise within departments as opposed to outsourcing the investigation to external forensic experts.

“Investigations are often outsourced by provincial government for the lack of relevant resources and often at premium prices”, the Task Team report said.

The investigation revealed a number of acts of maladministration in the municipality, including alleged irregularities pertaining to the building of the Memorial Hall, the building of a testing ground, the procurement of municipal fleet, soliciting of bribes and the procurement of security services.

The Cabinet approved a recommendation in the Task Team Report that the South African Police Services (SAPS) should take further action in respect of all alleged criminal, statutory and corrupt offences contained in the report.

The Cabinet also considered the planned launch of the planting season by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Over R 100 million has been earmarked this financial year to plant 16 310 hectares of land in the province. This will cover approximately 10 000 beneficiaries across the province, 60% of whom are female. Under the programme, the Department will supply production inputs such as fertilizer, seed and chemicals and also provide mechanization services such as ploughing and planting. Almost 500 jobs will be created under this programme whose launch is to take place on the 23rd of October 2018.

Plans to host the first ever KwaZulu-Natal Radical Economic Transformation Summit were also presented and approved by the cabinet. The summit which is expected to be held at the end of November this year, will include all relevant stakeholders, including government, the private sector, labour and civil society formations. It will address economic transformation challenges, the roles of various stakeholders and also deal with creeping criminality where specific groupings make unreasonable demands in the name of radical transformation.

Issued on behalf of Director-General Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize

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