



CABINET STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
EMBARGO : IMMEDIATE
Date : 05 JUNE 2013:

1. KZN is cash positive

Cabinet has welcomed a report by the Provincial Treasury which indicates that the Province is consistently improving its cash position on a year on year comparison. This year's preliminary budget shows that at the end of the financial year, the Province is cash positive. The report also indicates that three while 13 show under-expenditure. The Province ended the financial year with an over-collection of provincial own revenue of R325.749 million and an under-expenditure of R453.763 million.

2. Friday marks 120 years of Mahatma Gandhi being thrown off train in Pietermaritzburg Station

Friday June 7, 2013 will mark 120 years since the incident where human rights activist and lawyer Mahatma Gandhi was forced off a train in Pietermaritzburg for sitting in a section reserved for whites only. "This should be reflected upon as an event that changed history in SA and India, in that Gandhi's actions encouraged the oppressed to stand up and fight for their rights," said KZN Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize. Dr Mkhize encouraged all citizens to remember the sacrifices of those who laid the foundation for our democracy.

3. Manase Report

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Nomusa Dube reported to Cabinet on the process regarding the release of the Manase report into the affairs at eThekweni Metro. She said the report is available and those who want copies will have to apply in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act.

Cabinet supported release of the report, and note the actions that have been taken. "We hope remaining investigations will be pursued. Cabinet also appealed to organs of the State to continue with their work where disciplinary or criminal actions need to be taken."

4. Eskom presentation on state of electricity

Eskom briefed Cabinet about its campaign called "Beat the Peak" aimed at reducing electricity usage during peak hours between 5pm and 9pm. This initiative is aimed at reducing power usage, which in turn will reduce the need for load-shedding this winter.

5. Ndumo Regeneration Programme

Cabinet received a technical report on the progress of the Indumo Village development. MEC Senzo Mchunu said this is a groundbreaking project in terms of ensuring access to services for communities, especially those in rural areas. The Ndumo Programme is an integrated multi-purpose and multi-sectoral project of the KZN Provincial Government, which will address critical social malaise of rural communities. All government departments are involved in the programme which is led by the Department of Education.



Dr Mkhize said the level of collaboration between all departments and work done so far is very impressive. He said this project is a government response to a dire need for education in the area, but also the need for housing and provision for a large number of orphaned children in the area.

6. Improving of aeromedical and outreach services

Cabinet welcomed a briefing on plans to improve aeromedical and outreach services particularly to rural and far-flung areas of the province. This is a partnership between the Department of Health and Air Mercy Services. The plans to improve the service will include an urgent repair to landing strips that are used by the Department for these purposes. The landing strips are used for outreach services where specialist doctors fly to see to patients in various rural hospitals and the emergency services, which offers the air ambulance services. Cabinet agreed that this is an essential service which needs to be supported.

7. Cabinet condemns alleged police conduct

Cabinet has endorsed a note from Transport MEC Mr TW Mchunu condemning the alleged actions of police officers from Amanzimntoti Police Station and TRT member stationed at Umlazi Police Station who allegedly stormed into a vehicle repair workshop in Amanzimntoti and reclaimed a police member's vehicle without paying for it. When the incident occurred on May 20, they were allegedly using police vehicles. A criminal case has been opened, and MEC Mchunu has directed that the matter be referred to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

Issued by the Office of the Premier on behalf of Cabinet

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