



## Dube-Ncube delivers updates Parliament's Adhoc Committee on Flood Disaster Relief oversight visit

2022



KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube delivered an address at the Parliament's Adhoc Committee on Flood Disaster Relief oversight visit this week in Durban.

Dube-Ncube said: "Critically, plans to utilise some of the dilapidated buildings and those owned by the state in eThekweni have been supported by the committee. This will accommodate affected communities especially women and children who are our main priority.

"We have agreed as the provincial government to respond with urgency as ordinary members of society have no one to turn to but their government. In this regard, the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba confirmed that an enduring partnership with eThekweni Municipality has helped turn around the situation."

About 38 land parcels were acquired from National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, KZN Department Public Works and eThekweni Municipality comprising of 78 hectares.

Detailed assessments on the 38 recommended properties was completed. There were about 92 shelters, which were linked to land parcels that have been acquired for the building of homes.

About three land parcels are were at site clearance stage; five land parcels were at Pre-Award audit stage; 23 land parcels were at detailed planning stage; 44 were at circulation, assessment and feasibility stage.

The acquisition of La Mercy Land from Tongaat Hulett was at advanced stage with all necessary approvals being accelerated.



Dube-Ncube said: “Key major milestone ... is that of finalising the procurement of service providers to deal with earthworks on all of the identified sites from Ntshongweni to Ntuzuma including Reservoir Hills. The last phase has been completed following approvals from Provincial Treasury and Auditor-General.”

Dube-Ncube highlighted that apart from ensuring the protection of human rights of all affected communities,

government ensured that there was no space for unscrupulous companies and individuals.

She explained that the government was committed to live up to the reputation of the ANC of being a caring and compassionate movement that prioritised the upholding of human rights and dignity. Therefore, having a decent shelter was part of the restoration of the dignity of indigenous people.



MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba (left) and KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube (right) during the Parliament’s Adhoc Committee on Flood Disaster Relief oversight visit in Durban.



# Black women are the face of the dire state of poverty and unemployment in South Africa

By Dante MASHILE

Globally, women who are looking for work and are available to work, however they have a difficult time finding work than men. This is more experienced in South Africa, with higher unemployment rates for the general population as compared with the rest of the world.

In 2022, 47% of South African women were notably defined as economically inactive, meaning that almost half of the working age women in South Africa were out of labour force compared with 35,6% of their male counterparts.

The International Labour Organisation Report titled The gender gap in employment: What's holding women back? highlighted that the global labour force participation rate for women was about 47% compared with 72% for men. Even more dire is the fact that the productive potential of South Africa women in the labour market remained unused.

The industrialisation capacity in South Africa needed to be enhanced to drive expansion of labour absorptive sectors that have high potential to create value that will assist in the economy expanding in employment creation.

Young people and specifically black young females are likely to be unemployed. In fact, if you are young and a black woman, that likelihood increases. In the 2022 Quarter 2 of the Quarterly Labour Survey published by Statistics South Africa flagged that black African women unemployment rate was at 39,3%.

Our economy is systematically relegating women into domestic work. The private household contributed at 7,2% in employment numbers. The informal sector of the economy accounted for 19,1 % of total employment.

South Africa underestimated the care economy for a long time, hence the lack of prioritising the care economy as a major contribution to the health of the economy.

Equally, we have had a biased approach to support the formal economy at the expense of informal economy which is the backbone of livelihoods. Without a doubt the informal economy and care economy are led by black women in South Africa.

Care is a public good and no society, even South Africa, would survive without it. Neglecting care work sustains and reshapes pre-existing gendered forms of inequality. A great deal of care was traditionally provided by women as an unpaid part of their domestic responsibilities. This included caring for children, older family members, or those with disabilities among others.

The informal sector's true value should be viewed in its capacity to innovate and stimulate economic growth because it is a safety net for the formal economy, allowing the unemployed and unemployable to find work or start their own businesses, boosting income and alleviating poverty.

Without a doubt, supporting the informal sector is to back largely black women. The informal sector offers employment opportunities for women, more particularly black women empowering them to supply goods and services in townships, informal settlements and rural areas.

My siblings and I were raised by a single mother assisted by her parents after a devastating broken marriage that was ravaged by domestic abuse and violence.



Without the deliberate care of maternal grandparents, who strengthened the resolve of my mother to work for her children my siblings and I would not have been professionals who could stand on their own.

The care provided by my maternal grandmother, and a whole network of maternal aunts. That provided a cushion to help my mother to bounce back because it provided the necessary psychological and emotional support.

My grandmother was a determined informal trader that sold cakes, food, and anything that could sustain Iscor workers at early hours of the day. I used to get up at 3 am to go assist my grandmother to sell necessary food stuff to Iscor workers to have a livelihood.

That informal business sustained us as a family augmenting the salary of my maternal grandfather.

Domestic violence did not rob us of a fighting chance to get up and pick up the pieces and study to be engineers, economists, sales and marketing and accounting professionals. My younger brother runs an accounting firm that has been operating for more than 12 years.

Back in Mamelodi, where my mother lived with her in-laws, the neighbourhood where we lived was also a feature in my life that showed that when women of an area are sensitive and alert to the debilitating domestic violence that took place at 11073 house (my Dad's parent's house).

The contingent of women in the neighbourhood in Mamelodi stood up to provide support and care to my mother.

The women neighbours saved my mother on many occasions when she could have been murdered by her own husband.

When my mother eventually divorced my Dad, I was 10 years of age, it dawned on me then that I had to grow up and be a responsible brother and an exemplary man.

Unfortunately, my mother died in the hands of a male friend, who shot her dead at our family home in Atteridgeville. She was murdered because she refused to have an extramarital affair. Abusive relationships can be tragic. Sadly, single mothers are at more risk because they may have limited financial resources to care for their families.

When we take care of single mothers, we take care of their children directly and set the foundation for them to create a legacy for their children. Then there is hope for society and the economy at large.

We cannot keep silent when we notice that a fellow colleague is suffering domestic violence at home because that may save a life and the whole family which will give a foundation for the children to pursue their lives with purpose. I am reminded by the late colleague Hlengiwe Madlala that we cannot keep silent when witnessing domestic violence and gender-based violence.

When I analyse unemployment numbers, I understand that behind these numbers are people, specifically black women. These numbers tell a deeper story of pain and suffering that may lead to domestic violence, Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

I believe that when we speak up, we can ensure that the face of unemployment and poverty is not a black women's face.



## Zilingene's dream in fashion comes true



My passion for fashion started when I was very young in my primary school years. I used to create my own style by cutting and sewing existing clothes that I had, and altered into new inventions, and trust me that style would trend. I remember, I used to always borrow my mother's needles and cotton and lock myself in my room, cut old clothes and made things like bags or change them to something else wearable.

Well, in tertiary I was hoping to take the fashion design course but unfortunately my parents did not approve. Even after some years I still had the passion. In 2019, as I was driving past the School of Fashion here in Pietermaritzburg, I was tempted to stop and go in to enquire about enrolment. They advised me that registration was concluded I should come back the following year. In 2020 I went back and luckily, I enrolled and was accepted to study part time, i.e., Saturdays and that meant it was going to take me four years to complete a 2-year diploma course.

I am currently doing my 3rd year and have since graduated for a certificate and yet to graduate for a diploma next year. I have learned so much I can make my own proper wearable garments and this course has to be one of the most exciting things that I am passionate about

Last year we had to produce a collection of three well designed garments themed "The denim party". We had models to walk the runway and show case our work. .





## GOVERNMENT NEWS

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### BROADCAST DIGITAL MIGRATION

- Currently there is dual broadcasting (analogue and digital) in South Africa, and the Broadcasting Digital Migration Programme will see the phasing out of analogue signals.
- As highlighted by the Constitutional Court, the digital migration process is a national priority, and it must be completed without any further delay for the benefit of the country.
- All South African households with an income of R3500 per month or less and a working television set qualify for a government subsidised set-top box (STB).
- Qualifying households should visit their local post office or register online: [www.stbregistration.gov.za](http://www.stbregistration.gov.za) as soon as possible to apply for a free STB. They do not have to pay anything for the STB – it is free.
- While government is still working on a date for the switch off, we urge South Africans to apply before the 30th of September 2022.
- The extended window aims to provide a further opportunity for needy households to make applications and register for Government Subsidized STBs.
- For more information on the application process, click here: <https://www.gov.za/speeches/apply-subsidised-tv-decoder-now-says-sa-post-office-21-oct-2021-0000>

Government Communications (GCI)

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#Women'sRightsAndEmpowerment

**THEME: "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better For women's Resilience"**

