

**STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS AS DELIVERED BY MR S ZIKALALA, MPL,
HONOURABLE PREMIER OF THE PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL ON 28 JUNE 2019**

Breaking the grimy restraints for a United, Healthy, Safe, and Prosperous KwaZulu-Natal

His Majesty - Hlanga Lomhlabathi;
Queen Mothers;
Ondlunkulu Besilo;
Abantwana Basendlunkulu;
Former President J.G Zuma
Members of the NCOP present;
Former Premiers;
Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the KZN Legislature;
Former Deputy Speaker Dr Meshack Hadebe
Honourable Judge President - KZN Division;
Honourable Ministers present;
Honourable Deputy Minister present;
Honourable Members of the Provincial Executive Council;
Honourable Members of the Legislature;
Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;
Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Inkosi P H D Chiliza and Umama we Sizwe saseMadungeni;
Members of the Executive Committee of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders;
Mayors and Councillors of Local Government present;
Acting Director-General, Mr S Ngubane;
Heads of Provincial Departments and other senior officials present;
Business representatives present;
Labour representatives present;
Religious leaders present;
Struggle Stalwarts and their Families present;
Mrs. Mathabo Rachel Kunene, one of our special guests today;
All other social partners and broader civil society present;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen;
Listeners and viewers at home;
Sanibonani! Dumelang! Good morning! Goeie more!

INTRODUCTION AND SCENE SETTING: LIFE DOES NOT BEGIN WITH US

A colossus of African poetry and an admired son of KwaZulu-Natal, the late Mazisi kaMdabuli Kunene, has a lingering caution: “Life does not begin with Us!”

Taking heed from this national griot who gave us the epics, “**Emperor Shaka the Great**” and “**Anthem of the Decades**,” we recall how at different epochs, history has been kind to bless us with revolutionary prophets working for the the healing of our land, our rebirth, and prosperity.

One such figure was the young Pixley Seme who at the tender age of 25, at Columbia University in the United States of America, proclaimed a vision of renewal in his masterpiece, “**The Regeneration of Africa**” where he said:

“The brighter day is rising upon Africa. Already I seem to see her chains dissolved; Her desert plains red with harvest;

“Her Abyssinia and her Zululand the seats of science and religion, reflecting the glory of the rising sun from the spires of their churches and universities,

“Her Congo and her Gambia whitened with commerce;

“Her crowded cities sending forth the hum of business;

“And all her sons employed in advancing the victories of peace—greater and more abiding than the spoils of war.

“Yes, the regeneration of Africa belongs to this new and powerful period!”

Dr Seme could easily have identified economic freedom in our lifetime as our generational mission in this new and powerful period.

And indeed, Life does not begin with us.

Today we are here as conduits to express the wishes of the majority of South Africans who have entrusted the African National Congress with the sacred responsibility of restoring the dignity of the majority poor and bring a better life to all.

Honourable Speaker and Members of this august House;

The twenty five years of freedom and democracy of our country also provides a special opportunity to celebrate the longest peace and development that KZN has achieved.

We can never return to the shameful days of the so-called “**black on black violence**.” We cannot again be synonymous with the painful memory of being known as the killing fields of South Africa. The recent unrest including killings, looting and burning of trucks, disruption of business operations, and proliferation of drugs cannot be tolerated within a society that intends to build a better life for its people.

We emerged from a painful history. The violence of the 1990s took no less than **20 000 lives, and as we said in 1997, “We owe it to the victims of political violence whose remains lie strewn on the hills and valleys of KwaZulu-Natal. We owe it to the widows and widowers. We owe it to the orphans**

and those who were maimed in this political violence. We owe it to the humblest among our people. We owe it to our ancestors. We owe it to generations to come....”

And, we thank all our leaders without exception for working together to forge peace in our land. Late President Mandela, Isilo, uNxamalala, u-Shenge, and all other leaders displayed exceptional leadership in dealing with political violence in the province.

We call on all of us, political formations and parties in this house, traditional leaders, religious leaders, civic society, including labour unions and NGOs, intellectuals, artists and community as a whole - let's work together to decisively stop the culture of violence and the prevailing state of lawlessness in our province. It is high time that this be confronted and be dealt with, once and for all, for the future and prosperity of the province.

In addition to dealing with violence we have to eliminate the use of drugs, substance abuse, confront domestic violence, women and child abuse and stop teenage pregnancy. Equally, we have to deal with racial intolerance that keeps showing its ugly heads from time to time.

We must embark on a vigorous campaign to build social stability, restore human values and solidarity amongst people as underpinned by the sole conviction that “***Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu***”, a person is a person by others. I am, because you are!

We want peace and social cohesion to be our daily mantra and the creed of all the residents of the province. Our ambition must be to become a model for sustainable peace and a mecca for conflict resolution.

At this juncture, let me acknowledge the presence of **Adv. Vasu Gounden, the Executive Director of the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)**. He has participated in continental and global peace initiatives. Last year, during the centenary birth of our world icon and Nobel Peace Laureate, former President Nelson Mandela, Adv. Gounden participated in the United Nations Peace Dialogue held during the UN Special Council attended by all Heads of State.

We further extend our appreciation to all Faith-Based leaders present here, and rely on them and other social partners to contribute to the building of social cohesion and moral regeneration amongst all our people.

Madam Speaker, please allow us to invite the spirit of Mazisi Kunene in order to remind us that we are not only living for the future of our children, but for the honour of the departed ones as well.

In the lyric, “***In Praise of the Ancestors***” Kunene writes:

***We honour those who gave birth to us
With them we watch the spectacle of the moving mists.
They have opened their sacred book to sing with us
They are the mystery that envelopes our dream.
They are the power that shall unite us.
They are the strange truth of the earth.
They came from the womb of the universe***

***Restless they are, like a path of dreams...
We sing the anthems that celebrate their great eras.
For indeed life does not begin with us.***

We are truly honoured to have Mrs Mathabo Rachel Kunene, the wife of uBaba uMazisi Kunene, and their son, Ra.

CENTENARY BIRTH OF CLS NYEMBEZI AND ESKIA MPHAHLELE

True, life does not begin or end with us.

There is also Professor Sibusiso Cyril Nyembezi and Eskia Mphahlele who came before us. And 2019 marks the centenary of their births.

In a year that has been declared by the United Nations the **Year of Indigenous Languages** which also happened to coincide with the centenary of this child of Babanango and great literary giant, we call on all the people of the Province to properly honour Nyembezi.

We are happy to learn about efforts of a young South African author and academic from eNhlangueni Village in Nquthu, Dumisani Sibiyi, who is making efforts to commemorate Professor CLS Nyembezi.

The Office of the Premier, in partnership with our Department of Arts and Culture, the Department of Education, as well as Tourism KZN which has a programme on Literary Tourism, will soon be announcing a province-wide, programme that must be implemented to honour the legacy of Nyembezi.

We hope to work with Mr Sibiyi, other provincial isiZulu writers and creatives to do justice to the memory of Professor Nyembezi who gave us such classics as ***Inqolobane Yesizwe, Inkinsela yaseMgungundlovu, Mntanami Mntanami, Izibongo Zamakhosi, and Ubudoda Abukhulelwa.***

The arts – literature, poetry, music, dance, painting, sculpting – all the art-forms can be very powerful in opening difficult dialogues and in building socially cohesive communities.

This Administration will play a leading role in supporting the creative industries and celebrating our artists. In partnership with our traditional and religious leaders, we will work hard to reawaken the conscience of our people, build peace and promote social cohesion.

As we mark the 64TH Anniversary of the Freedom Charter, we remember Eskia Mphahlele. Mphahlele was a devoted and a fierce opponent of Bantu Education and prolific author. It was Mphahlele who consolidated and presented the Freedom Charter Clause, the **“Doors of Learning and Culture Shall Be Opened”** in Kliptown on June 26, 1955.

The Clause also said, ***“the aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace.”***

Like Inkosi Albert Luthuli and Walter Sisulu, Mphahlele appreciated that education is a critical tool not only for self-development but for building the nation, its heritage, enhance social cohesion and human solidarity. We certainly need to do more to encourage our youth to cherish our country and people.

Building on the foundation laid by the preceding administrations

Honourable Members, towards the end of the term of the 5th Administration we presented a report back to this Legislature and to the people of the province. We accounted on the work done by the 5th Administration, which on its own, was a continuation of the programme started by a preceding administration.

Summing the work of the 5th Administration we highlighted that:

- The provincial government awarded bursaries worth a total of **R1.8 billion to more than 16 000 students between 2014 and 2018**. The Matric pass rate increased from 69.7% in 2014 to 76.2% in 2018. We delivered 43 new schools within the province since 2014.
- The KZN Government provided a total of **114,803 quality houses with basic services for poor families and further upgraded 34 578 sites** in informal settlements between 2014 and 2019.
- From 2014 to 2019, more **than 47 000 learners in 320 schools from across the Province, benefitted from the learner transport** programme. There has been an improvement in the provision of access to Grade R as 2017 statistics indicate that 74% of Grade one learners had attended Grade R.
- Access to electricity improved **from 78% in 2011 to 89% in 2016, while access to solid waste removal services increased from 78% in 2011 to 89% in 2016. We have been providing piped potable drinking water to within 200m of a dwelling, to an average of 44 000 household per annum over the last five years.**
- The Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital, which is the first Regional Hospital to be constructed in the Province post-1994, is nearing completion.
- Life expectancy at birth increased over the last five years from 56.9 years in 2014 to 60.7 years in 2018;
- The new **HIV infections decreased from 79,000 to 61,000 between 2014 and 2018. We know though that latest research** shows that there are increases in new infections among vulnerable young girls and women. Mother-To-Child transmission of HIV decreased from 1.6% in 2014 to 0.71% in 2018. The TB death rate decreased from 4.7% 2014 to 3.2% in 2018
- A total of **258 KZN students were trained in Cuba as part of the Nelson Mandela/Fidel Castro Medical Collaboration** Programme
- The Department of Transport Maintained **existing network of more than 42 025 kilometres, built 84 bridges and created more than 44 000** employment opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)
- The EDTEA, together with the DTI, supported Nine KZN Black Industrialists from KZN, while TIKZN facilitated more than R18 billions of investments into KZN creating about 22 000 jobs. KGFT has approved projects amounting to R1.1 billion towards investments in the

manufacturing, healthcare, transport and logistics and telecommunications sectors and almost 10 000 job opportunities were created.

We recounted the successes scored under the 5th Administration to express that ours is an ongoing programme of radical socio-economic transformation which unfolds from one leadership to the other, until the National Democratic Society is attained.

We are humbled that our former Premier, Honourable T.W. Mchunu, was able to hand over this very comprehensive Close-Out Report of the 5th Administration to the Provincial Executive Council. We salute you Honourable Cde. Macingwane for your sterling leadership.

BREAKING THE GRIMY MOMENTOUS RESTRAINS

Honourable Speaker, notwithstanding progress made since 1994, our country continues to face stubborn challenges that hinder progress and try to reverse the gains we have made. Last week, when His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the State of the Nation Address to mark the beginning of the term of the 6th Administration, the President was frank to admit that our nation is going through an extremely difficult and challenging time.

Economic constraints

- **We agree with President Ramaphosa** that the 6th Administration begins its term during a particularly challenging time in our history. Our economic growth remains subdued and our Gross Domestic Product fell by 3.2% in the first quarter of 2019. StatsSA reported that manufacturing, mining and trade were the biggest contributors to the fall. Construction, mining and trade are in recession. The agricultural sector contracted by 13.2% quarter –on- quarter.

The global economy is facing strong headwinds, and emerging economies will be affected. Global Trade Wars and heightened tension are contributing to restrained growth. Recently, the World Bank projected global economic growth to weaken to 2.6% in 2019. Growth remains constrained by sluggish investment and reduced appetite for risk taking. News of a major South African company like **Naspers** listing abroad may not bode well for investor confidence in the local economy. The South African private sector is failing to shake itself off of perceptions of corruption and accounting scandals – as we speak, thousands of workers are facing retrenchments at an important sugar and property company like Tongaat-Hullet. This is definitely not the partnership and ethical leadership envisaged by the National Development Plan.

- **Restraining Unemployment Rate**

Unemployment for South African youth has reached crisis levels with more than half of them unemployed. According to Stats SA, South Africa's unemployment rate increased from 27.1 % to 27.6% in the first quarter of 2019.

Officially, South Africa has 6.2 million unemployed people between the ages of 15 and 64. The expanded unemployment rate which includes discouraged work seekers is even higher at 38%. KZN Official unemployment rate is 25.1% and the expanded unemployment rate is 42.4%. We

are somewhat encouraged by the latest news from Stats SA that overall, employment increased by 0.8% year-on-year between March 2018 and March 2019.

- **Unbearable Cost of living**

The middle class is struggling to make ends meet. People are defaulting on repayments on their home loans, personal loans, credit cards, and even on school or university fees for their children. The unbearable cost of living is even felt more severely by the working class and the rural poor. Domestic workers are losing work or asked to work fewer days as their own employers are trying to save every cent with the rising cost of living.

- **Growing Social Ills**

We are seeing a rise in the number of stunted children, teenage pregnancy and high level of drug abuse and alcohol. KZN, of late has been grabbing the headlines for all the wrong reasons. This is not just about politically motivated killings, but also about corruption allegations, about water taps that have been switched off without properly explaining to communities, and also failure to collect refuse in places like uMlazi. Poverty and gender inequality between men and women is fuelling the spread of HIV among vulnerable young girls and women.

Some of our schools have become war zones and centres of crime, drugs, and sexual abuse. None of us would have ever imagined the killing of the teacher in front of students as it happened at Folweni, followed by the killing of security guards.

People living with albinism live in fear for their lives and many disabled people suffer discrimination. And just recently, our nation woke up to horrific stories of murders of homeless people in Pretoria.

Indeed, we are faced with extreme difficulties and serious restraining socio-economic challenges. But because of our conviction with the genuine course of our liberation, democracy and development, we have no doubt that we will triumph. Definitely, light will prevail over darkness, good over evil, friendship and human solidarity will defeat greed and exploitation, just as growth and prosperity must win over underdevelopment and social decay. Because our cause is genuine and our mission entails noble goals, we have no doubt that victory is certain.

THEME OF THE 2019 KZN SOPA: *“Breaking the grimy restraints for a United, Healthy, Safe, and Prosperous KwaZulu-Natal.”*

Honourable Members, in analysing the current state of our beloved province and our bold vision for its future, it was appropriate to theme this address: ***“Breaking the grimy restraints for a United, Healthy, Safe, and Prosperous KwaZulu-Natal.”***

The SOPA theme fully recognises that our developmental challenges emanating from the crude levels of race-based inequalities and underdevelopment are historical, structural, and deeply endemic.

It affirms that many of the restraints can be ascribed to external actors and a global village that continues to be characterised by unequal power relations between the affluent nations of the North and the developing world of the global South.

But we are not passive and helpless victims. Through our own agency and active citizenry, we are consciously crafting our collective future which must be truly democratic, equal, non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous.

It demands that we pay attention to the warning from the 1922 novel title, ***“Isitha Somuntu nguye uqobo lwakhe”*** by Dr JL Dube, uMafukuzela. It requires us to work in unison and together to become a combative force for change.

Bayede, Sthuli sikaNdaba, Hlanga Lomhlabathi siyayazi imisebenzi yakho yokubumba isizwe ugququzele ukuthula nentuthukho ezweni.

Your Majesty, you have emphatically called for unity and collaboration amongst all sectors of our society to build peace and economic growth of the province. Your clarion call is not only instructive but is a wise counsel which we shall religiously pursue with no fail.

PROGRAMME FOR A NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

The NDP remains our long-term plan to drastically reduce the scourges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality by 2030. The NDP is an expression of the Freedom Charter and constitutes a strategic framework for the construction of National Democratic Society. In defining it in December 1955, Oliver Tambo said that the Freedom Charter ***“is the road to a new life...the uniting creed of all the people struggling for democracy and for their rights; the mirror of the future South Africa.”***

Consistently, in the NDP we envision the society we are building. During the election campaign the ANC presented its Manifesto to the electorate which is a pledge and programmatic commitment towards building a National Democratic Society. The Manifesto was premised on the NDP as a strategic vision and identified the seven priority areas of our government.

These are:

1. Economic transformation and job creation
2. Education, skills and health
3. Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
4. Spatial integration, human settlements and local government

5. Social cohesion and safe communities
6. A capable, ethical and developmental state
7. A better Africa and World

These priorities will constitute a guiding framework of the 6th Provincial Government as critical pillars towards the attainment of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUST WORK BETTER

Madam Speaker, during this term of office, we will pay undivided attention to all municipalities. We reiterate our commitment to make the local government work better and bring the people to the centre of our programmes for service delivery.

The local government sphere has to remain the centre of popular democratic participation in the delivery of services to all our people. We undertake to ensure that we change the manner in which councillors do their work, as representatives elected by the people.

Despite challenges in some municipalities, we want to thank all those councillors that have worked very hard to earn the respect of the constituencies that elected them.

Being a Public Representative means selfless dedication to service, always being approachable and treating all people fairly and equally. They therefore refresh their mandate and remain the true representatives. We want all councillors to emulate them and follow their good example.

Audit outcomes, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Madam Speaker, the regression in the number of audit outcomes from municipalities remains a concern to the Provincial Government. Of particular concern were the high levels of consumer debt reported as well as irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The report by the Auditor General on Wednesday, 26 June depicts a terrible state of local government that is in decline, and where public officials are simply not implementing advice.

To counter this regression, we have mandated the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to conduct an assessment on the status of all 54 municipalities. Working with the office of the Auditor General we undertake to support these municipalities in order to improve the municipal audit outcomes moving forward.

Compatriots, we are disturbed by the public protests that have been experienced in local municipalities. Some are as a result of the feeling of neglect where communities have been ignored and at times, communities feel left behind in development programmes. And in some cases, these protests are a response to poor and shabby services provided to the community.

At the same time we cannot ignore that some of these protests are a reflection as part of the contests for future election as Councillors. So some communities have been mobilized into mass support for those

who seek election into positions. We must all discourage such conduct but attend to genuine grievances with a sense of urgency.

In the coming months we shall be conducting home visits starting with eThekweni Municipality, Umsunduzi and many other affected municipalities to discuss with ordinary members of society all issues related to service delivery.

In eThekweni in particular, we have recently witnessed the kind of social strife that can be ignited if local government fails to deliver on the mandate that the electorate has entrusted us with. We have taken a firm decision to insource all critical services such as maintenance and refuse removal to ensure proper controls and improved levels of cleanliness in all cities, townships and rural areas.

Humble Service to the people

Honourable Members, because we want to demonstrate humble service to the people – we must admit where there are challenges.

It is true that some KZN municipalities have failed to live up to their mandate. We want to make a firm undertaking that we cannot in all honesty allow this situation to continue.

The Provincial Government, through COGTA and Premier's Coordinating Forum will continue to support all municipalities with a dedicated focus on building administrative capacity, financial management and uninterrupted provision of services to the people. Equally decisive interventions will be taken to enforce adherence to rules on municipalities which are not responding positively to expected standards.

The current state of eThekweni and uMsunduzi Municipalities leaves great concern about their capacity to provide services. To this end, the provincial government, in particular the Office of Premier, COGTA and Finance will work closely with these municipalities to ensure proper functionality and effective services to the people. At the same time, COGTA will continue coordinating support for all municipalities that are under administration and those struggling to provide services.

As part of addressing these challenges, the eThekweni Municipality will start a process of insourcing the refuse removal services from the beginning of July 2019.

In addition, through Operation Sukuma Sakhe and I DO RIGHT Campaign, the KZN Government will do workshops to empower communities to act in the case of dissatisfaction to avoid unproven perceptions of corruption.

We will also act firmly to deal perceived disruption of service delivery in any municipality as a result of local contests for positions. This is damaging the reputation of disciplined and hardworking councillors.

Basic services such sanitation, water and electricity

Compatriots, one of the key focus for our government will be to ensure improve provision of basic services such sanitation, water and electricity

Sanitation

In terms of sanitation we are proud to report that the KZN province has eradicated the bucket system and aim to ensure that all households have decent levels of sanitation and VIP toilets where water reticulation is non-existent.

Thus far thirty four (34) sanitation projects are currently being implemented throughout the Province through Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

Water

In **2019/20**, we will continue working with all the 14 Water Service Authorities in the implementation of projects with the aim to improve the provision of water and decent sanitation services to households.

Water is one of the biggest challenges we face as a province. We are battling with meeting the water demands for the growing population especially in Umkhanyakude, Umzinyathi and Zululand which are lagging behind.

In this regard, we have resolved to embark on a provincially coordinated approach to address the water problem. We have assembled a technical team constituted by experts which will work with all districts in identifying and examining water challenges in each district. Based on scientific findings, we will embark on appropriate interventions per district.

This project will be coordinated by COGTA and the Premier's Office being hands-on with quarterly reports being presented to the Premier's Coordinating Forum and MUNIMEC. The MEC for Finance will also present financial allocation that will be reserved for water provision during the Budget Review in October 2019.

We will continue with the implementation of large scale water projects that are planned for Zululand, EThekweni, uMhlathuze and Harry Gwala and over R750m has been committed toward the bulk *water projects*.

Electricity

The Province has made great strides in addressing electricity backlogs. We still have serious challenges especially in the Umkhanyakude District and in particular Umhlabuyalingana. Our priority will be to address backlogs and in fills using the INEP grant and our own budget as a Province.

Transmission lines will be strengthened through Eskom bulk electricity transition lines programme. Over R15 billion has been targeted for the Province to address network capacity.

Climate Change

Honourable Members, the impact of climate change in the province is being felt by everyone as we just experienced severe floods. As a result the Province had to react to deal with the effects of floods and

declared Harry Gwala, Ilembe, Ethekewini Metro, Umkhanyakude, King Cetshwayo and Ugu District Municipalities as disaster areas and implemented disaster relief measures to support all those affected.

The cost of the floods were estimated to be R3.5 billion, with about 71 deaths/fatalities. We wish to announce that the National Department of Human Settlements has already released funding for the housing rehabilitation in Ugu, King Cetshwayo and EThekwini.

We do acknowledge the challenges that Ethekewini has in relation to land. Negotiations are underway to secure sites for transitional housing especially for those that need to be relocated.

The experience gained in the coordination of recent disasters has taught us many lessons. As a Province we undertake to improve on our disaster response measures including establishing effective and functional early warning systems. We will achieve this by fast-tracking the installation of communication and early warning systems at the Provincial Disaster Management Centre.

Therefore, all 11 District Disaster Management Centres will be supported to remain functional, and to be monitored on the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management legislation in light of climate change.

Unlocking land working with traditional leaders

Madam Speaker, as government we are determined to build on the work of this government in creating a partnership with the institution of traditional leaders. In line with the message Isilo SamaBanda delivered yesterday – we will ensure that Amakhosi are consulted when spheres of government, especially municipalities, plan development.

Amakhosi form an extremely vital and integral part of our democratic dispensation. This institution has over the years provided leadership and significantly contributed to the peace and stability we enjoy in this province today. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for such leadership and support.

FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND ENSURING SOCIAL STABILITY

Madame Speaker,

Over the past 25 years crime has emerged in many forms in our society threatening to undermine our democratic order. The Justice, Crime Prevention Cluster is charged with the creation of a transparent and well-capacitated criminal justice system through the recruitment and training of competent personnel. Over the next five years, we will focus on the reduction of serious crimes against vulnerable groups from the current 1 669 210 to 833 105, and the reduction of Gender-Based Violence by 50% by 2024.

This will be driven by publicity campaigns to address crimes against women and children which will be driven by the roll-out of the Crimes Against Women and Children Strategy as well as the Anti-rape Strategy. In particular, these programmes must conscientize boy children on gender-based violence and also campaign against the granting of bail; and support the imposition of stricter bail conditions and harsher sentences for crimes against women and children.

Our Communities in Dialogue Programme (CiDP) has been extensively applied to resolve deep-seated community conflicts and in particular was successfully applied in resolving Public transport or taxi conflicts, Hostel conflicts in Glebelands and KwaMashu hostels, and in Farms and faction related conflicts.

We will reduce contact crime significantly from the current rate of 1.1% to 10% by 2024, and a 100% reduction in transnational organised crime. Owing to increased planning and focus, we will provide one of the safest maritime environments in the world which by 2024, will play a bigger strategic role to enable free trade and the passage of goods at sea by 2024.

BUSINESS FORUMS

We have also noted with concern the threatening behaviour of certain business forums which are coercing businesses and government into providing employment and/or contracts. Unfortunately, giving in to the demands of the first groups by some businesses has led to the proliferation of new groups and activities. We will never allow our economy to be undermined by lawlessness and violent behaviour and we will pay urgent attention to this growing threat.

We condemn all acts of intimidation conducted by these structures and individuals who purport to represent African businesses in their own version of Radical Economic Transformation. Theirs are merely acts of criminality which must be rooted out once and for all!

We have also seen the unfortunate incidents of burning of trucks. As provincial and national government we have intervened and set a clear mechanism to address this challenge. Anyone found working continuing with burning of trucks or companies that are not complying with the law and regulations will face the might of the law.

MOERANE COMMISSION

In September 2018, we released the Final reports of the Moerane Commission into its probe into the underlying causes of violence and murder of politicians in KwaZulu-Natal. The Moerane Commission was set up to probe political killings and found principally that election as a councillor allows for upward mobility in status, and also supports the creation of a patronage network.

We have already prepared a detailed implementation framework to ensure that the recommendations are implemented by the various entities listed in the report.

FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

When we talk about crime we often neglect rural communities who are already under a huge yoke of poverty. These communities often have to bear the brunt of stock theft which wipes away any possible reserves they have as the livestock is part of the economy of rural people. The seriousness of this matter has prompted the government to classify this as a priority crime.

The isolation of farmsteads has resulted in many farmers being vulnerable and many being murdered by criminals; some of whom have connection with the farms or associated with souring of employer-employee relations.

We need to create the atmosphere of '*thy brother's keeper*' where neighbours and passers-by will alert and report to a farmer of suspicious trespassers. Strong use of means of communication amongst the farming community should be part of prevention strategy.

Improving of labour relations and ensuring good relations between farm owners and farm dwellers will go a long way to create a protective environment in the farms. We are seriously concerned by the incidents of farmers' killings that keep emerging from time to time. These attacks are equally backward and must elicit the same condemnation across all communities because one more murder is one too many.

Crime must be attacked wherever it raises its ghastly face irrespective of the target. The paucity of resources and infrastructure for rural communities means community cooperation provides additional methods in prevention of criminal acts.

The restoration of the human values for which African people have been known for would have also assisted in the prevention of what has been largely defined as 'xenophobic' attacks.

Similarly communities must work with the police to uproot the massive proliferation of drugs in schools and villages. Often the drug lords are known but feared. The liquor outlets have to be forced to function within the conditions of their licenses.

Communities need to appreciate that they have a right to object against the inconsiderate distribution of alcohol in the proximity of schools and places of worship.

The next few months will see provincial government working with our communities to establish Street Committees, Community Safety Forums and Community Policing Forums where they don't exist. Where such structures exist, these will be strengthened with the MEC of Community Safety and Liaison providing leadership.

The involvement of our communities in the push back against crime cannot be over emphasised. We now have 560 functioning Community Police Forums, 42 Community Safety Forums and 298 Ward Safety Committees in the Province.

We want to increase the total number of community-policing forums from 1149 to 2400 by 2024. These forums and committees provide an ideal platform for the engagement of business and civil society structures in the matter of crime prevention.

A large number of community volunteers has already been recruited, and will be increased to maximize the effectiveness of police, (an innovation that proved very successful in the Manchester Police from which the strategy was developed). These structures will work well in an environment where every member of our community has accepted that each one of us has a strong role to play in fighting crime.

The collective effort of all our people is what will Build a Solid and United Front Against Crime. Finally, we are not going to accept the state of lawlessness to prevail in the province. Crime, killings, vandalism

of property, torching trucks, proliferation of drugs and women abuse are some of worrying criminal elements that need to be confronted. We are going to work to revamp policing by ensuring proper functioning of police stations, ensure that police respond to complaints with urgency.

We will engage with the Minister of Police to ensure stability and effectiveness in the provincial and district management structures of SAPS.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, during this term of office we undertake to ensure maximal impact in the creation of a better life and sustainable communities. The focus will be to uproot social ills and overcome racial tensions.

Through the Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Council we will rollout programmes across all municipalities to heal the wounds and rebuild community fibre. These programmes will include building partnerships among all social formations especially Government Leaders, Traditional Leaders, Business Community, Faith Based Leaders, NGO, labour unions and all other sectors. We must work together to eliminate social ills and build togetherness amongst all our people.

Reinvigoration Operation Sukuma Sakhe

Honourable Members, one of the most critical programmes of our provincial government addressing social stability, fighting poverty and social ills is operation Sukuma Sakhe. The effectiveness of OSS is its ability to bring all sectors together and to pay attention to colossal challenges such as poverty and HIV and Aids.

We are in the process of strengthening the functionality of OSS structures and to further reinvigorate its campaigns, through the following interventions:

- Ensure effective functioning of structures and participations of departments especially in Local Task Teams (LTTs) and District Task Teams (DTTs). Community service-oriented departments will need to participate in the War Rooms.
- Develop Ward based ongoing programmes that respond to specific challenges on the ward.
- Ensure effective participations of Mayors in LTTs and MECs in DTTs, and furthermore have clear ongoing intervention programmes on the immense challenges affecting that area of jurisdiction.
- Ensure proper follow-ups, the processing of issues and report back on matters raised which are gathered during the monthly OSS outreach programmes.
- KZN-pioneered, award winning poverty-eradication programmes like Zibambele, and other provinces will be replicated. It is time again that we all fully embraced innovation and thinking out of the box to develop our province.
- The documenting of these case studies – as they do in Canada at a provincial government level - must be part of the KZN Government developing an archive of the best practices that can be replicated in other spheres of governance.

STRENGTHENING THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV, AIDS, TB AND THE PROVISION OF QUALITY HEALTHCARE

Honourable members, two weeks ago our province hosted, on behalf of the country, the South African Aids Conference which was attended by thousands of delegates from across the globe. The conference galvanized all of us into action and to act with speed to ensure that we create an Aids-Free Society in our province and the country.

The conference painted a bleak picture around the new HIV infections especially among young girls. Without a shadow of a doubt, this is an indictment on our part, and if this situation is allowed to persist it will continue to threaten the social fabric of our societies.

Through the Provincial and District Aids councils we will work with civil society – religious leaders and traditional leaders in helping our community to foster behavioural change especially amongst the youth. There are a number of issues which we have clustered together in order to turn around the situation and these includes:

- Sexual awareness and the promotion of responsible and safe sexual practices;
- Prevention of spread of HIV;
- Prevention of teenage and unplanned pregnancy;
- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections;
- Supporting treatment for TB (Directly observed treatment, short-course);
- Care for orphans and vulnerable children;
- Prevention of drug and alcohol abuse;
- Understanding selfless service and strengthening the spirit of patriotism;
 - Healthy lifestyles and prevention of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, hypertension, obesity and cancers of various sorts;
 - Our healthy lifestyle campaign will include screening 2.5 million people who are 40 years and above, for hypertension and diabetes.

Honourable Members, we are comforted by the fact that the waiting list for anti-retroviral treatment no longer exists, thanks to our Universal Test and Treat approach, where those who test positive for HIV are counselled and then initiated on treatment immediately. Our target is to increase the number of patients on ART to 1.5 million - cumulatively.

We are proud to announce that to date, we have circumcised more than 1,2 million men and boys since His Majesty, the King made the clarion call for the revival of the very important custom, in 2009.

Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) has a massive impact in curbing the spread of HIV as it reduces the infection rate by up to 60%. We will also continue to strengthen our Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) programme.

We will also continue to ensure that the matter of maternal mortality remains a standing item in the Provincial Council on Aids. We want leadership at district and local levels to be seized with this matter until we win the battle.

We will strengthen the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality and regular progress reports will be tabled in the meetings of Provincial Council on Aids.

Our view is that local leadership must take action to stop the death of mothers as a result of giving birth—a natural process of giving life. This is the fight that should not be fought by health professionals alone. We must all be involved.

Honourable Members, we undertake to continue with our efforts to improve the quality of service and care in our public health institutions.

We will alleviate patient-waiting times by strengthening the Centralised Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) programme, while accelerating the training and involvement of Community Care-Givers. These care-givers are working with Primary Health Care Clinic nurses in distributing chronic care medication packaged in hospitals.

The distribution of medication in communities has already assisted in ensuring that our senior citizens do not visit our facilities to wait in long queues for many hours when they do not need medical examination or attention.

As part of our efforts to improve the quality of healthcare, and how to access it, we will be refurbishing and upgrading a number of healthcare facilities. The MEC for Health will detail these facilities in her Budget Vote.

We are committed towards ensuring Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as envisaged in the National Health Insurance (NHI).

Madam Speaker, one of the milestones in Health Infrastructure Development will be the commissioning of the brand-new 500-bed Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital in Bridge City, KwaMashu, North of Durban. This is the first regional hospital to be built in KZN and is wholly funded by Government, post 1994.

The new Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital will have a basic Patient Electronic Record system, where the Department has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Health from the Eastern Cape for the use of their system which is fully developed and owned by Government. We are convinced that this will help secure patient records, reduce patient waiting times, and significantly improve overall client experience at our facilities.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, a lot has previously been said about the Department's capacity to provide oncology services.

Whilst we welcome robust engagement, as government we believe that we have a responsibility to create health awareness. We wish to emphasize the point that if cancer is detected early, treatment can be started on time through means such as radiation, chemotherapy or surgery-based interventions – which

improves the chances of positive outcomes. We commit to focus on creating awareness in our communities as part of health promotion activities. We appeal to all stakeholders work together for the good of this province.

In addition, we wish to highlight few issues regarding oncology services in our province.

Firstly, the Department of Health currently has four (4) active oncology sites that are dealing with the backlog. Grey's Hospital has two (2) fulltime Oncologists that are seeing patients on a daily basis. There is a total of six (6) oncologists working in the Durban Oncology Complex (Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital and Addington Hospital).

Secondly, three (3) oncologists per day are provided by the Wits Health Consortium contract. In addition, Dr Bhadree, Dr Zuma and Dr Lusu are employed by the Department as full-time oncologists that rotate between the two hospitals.

As government we have ensured that there are SEVEN fully functional linear accelerators in the province which is higher than any other province in the country. Three of these are at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital (IALCH), two at Addington Hospital, and one at Grey's Hospital, where there are no significant waiting times for treatment.

The seventh machine is used as part of a Public-Private Partnership at Queen Nandi and Ngwelezane Hospital complex.

As a result of these measures, the waiting period to see an oncologist for the first time at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital (ALCH) and Addington Hospital (ADH) ranges from 3-4 weeks to 8 weeks, depending on the type of required service. Before these interventions, the waiting time was between five to six months. There are no waiting times for children who need to see an oncologist.

PROVISION OF QUALITY EDUCATION

Madam Speaker, we undertake to become the skills capital of the whole country and the whole of Africa. It is a well-known fact that economic growth and development are linked directly to the level of skills that an economy can deploy into different sectors over the time.

We therefore want to focus on ensuring that our education systems functions optimally in one connected pipeline from early childhood development, pre-primary, primary, secondary, tertiary education and through to workplace. We must mention that our Provincial Integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD) Action Plan and partnership with the Assupol Community Trust now has 130 194 children attending

1,689 ECD Centres funded through this partnership. We intend to upscale these centres over the coming years.

REORIENTING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

In line with the National Development Plan 2030, the province has issued the first “technical matric certificate” in 2018 with 11 new subjects which are likely to channel the high school graduates towards critical technical fields like engineering, construction, electronics etc. and produce more artisans.

We will closely monitor the performance of Learners in the new 12 subjects namely, specialisations in Civil Technology, Electrical Technology and Mechanical Technology, Technical Mathematics, Technical Sciences and Sign Language. The Province has set a target of 80% or more pass percentage for 2019.

The Department of Education will also establish three focus schools which are the Agricultural School of Excellence, the Maritime School and the Autism School.

We are introducing Coding and Robotics to 50 Primary Schools, 55 Multigrade Schools and 08 Special and Full-Service Schools at Grade 7 in 2020 and Grades 9 in 2022. We will drive our education system towards practical orientation instead of theoretical outcomes with a view to enhance opportunities for self-employment.

Madam Speaker, in order to address unemployment, economic growth and food security, we are in the process of reviving agricultural education by resourcing four existing Agricultural High Schools. As indicated, the Department of Education will establish the Agricultural School of Excellence in order to provide specialized teaching and learning and practical training in the field of Agriculture in the Districts of Umgungundlovu, uThukela and Ugu.

In the audience today, we are delighted to have our daughter from Nongoma, **Senamile Masango**. She lifted our country when we heard that in April she completed her MA degree in Nuclear Physics cum laude from the University of the Western Cape and she is her way to get a doctorate. We thank her well known activism in getting more girls and women, especially from rural areas, to study science and technology. In addition, we appreciate the presence of the grandmother of the first ever African female pilot Major Mandisa Mfeka. We also pay tribute to Lloyd Gordon who has developed a free online App with the assistance of Ithala to assist learners to solve mathematical problems.

As KZN, we are determined to shape the agenda and policy direction of the 4th Industrial Revolution. We cannot be spectators and we want to make our contribution to ensure that we do not only prepare our youth for work of the future, but to ensure that we participate in the re-skilling of our people to deliver a truly humane, and just transition.

The National School Nutrition Programme

For many years during apartheid, our children went to school on empty stomachs without the benefit of a nutritious meal. The NSNP provides 14 100 jobs to unemployed women. We salute the government intervention for there is now no child that suffers hunger at school.

JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Job Creation and local economic development

Madam Speaker, the ANC-led government is committed to building the economy and ensuring job creation at local level. We will focus on supporting the 54 municipalities in developing and implementing their Integrated Development Plans. We want to ensure that identified sectors of the economy that have a potential to deliver economic growth for the benefit of local communities.

We want to use the infrastructure development as a way to assist local municipalities to create much needed jobs for millions of people who live in abject poverty.

To this effect, the province is budgeting to spend R12.250 billion in 2018/19 and R13.264 billion in 2019/20 on various infrastructure projects. In particular, we want to use the infrastructure budget to ensure that we empower emerging entrepreneurs.

The Small Town Rehabilitation and Corridor Development Programme is our game changer in terms of job creation.

Amongst highlighted achievements are the R18 million Maphumulo Taxi rank which aims to accommodate taxis and informal traders.

Another complete project was the upgrading of Main and Groom Streets in the Central Business District of Kokstad, where we invested R15 million with the aim of boosting economic activity within the Greater Kokstad Municipality.

The establishment of the new town node in Bergville has shown that government wants to create new cities in underdeveloped rural areas that were neglected by the apartheid government. More nodes of this nature will be rolled out to expand and grow other small towns using the same approach utilized for Bergville.

We aim to provide implementation support to 19 projects in 12 municipalities (Richmond, Umzimkhulu, Msunduzi, Greater Kokstad, Inkosi Langalibalele, Edumbe Local, Mandeni, Umhlabuyalingana, Umngeni, Ilembe, KwaDukuza and Umvoti).

Madam speaker, we wish to announce that we will also host the Provincial Rural Local Economic Development Summit with the focus on promoting job creation at the local level.

The District Development Agencies remain the pillar in supporting the high impact LED initiatives and they will be workshopped on the implementation of the District Growth Development Plan and other catalytic projects towards the support of RASET.

We will also continue with the alignment of the industrial hubs with the work of the District Development Agencies to ensure that we achieve the growth targets that have been set out in our PGDP.

Madam Speaker, we wish to report that in **2019/20**, we have set a target of creating 40 500 work opportunities through Community Works Programme (CWP). Critically, the provincial government is targeting to create 121 888 work opportunities through Expanded Public Works Programme for the same period.

It should be noted that during 2018/2019 financial year about 45 252 work opportunities were created through CWP. About 35 000 of beneficiaries were women and 11 000 were people. In addition, 1740 employment opportunities were created through EPWP in which 1240 of the beneficiaries were women 853 were young people.

Amongst major contributors in the EPWP has been the department of transport which has managed to create more than 4000 opportunities for unemployed to fight poverty.

Going forward we will strengthen the coordination of EPWP. Through the department of Public Works we will ensure that all allocations meant for EPWP are utilise efficiently by minimising costs that go to management of such projects, and we will improve monitoring to eliminate the corrupt practices of ghost employees.

RADICAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

We stand here before you, **Honourable Members and Honoured Guests**, knowing very well that any failure to drive economic transformation and job creation will not only be our failure as a province, but will also cause our country to fail.

Importantly, it should be remembered that when KZN government conducted the Citizen Satisfaction Survey, in partnership with Stats South Africa in 2015 and 2018, the majority of citizens aged 15 years and older ranked job creation as their top priority. Hence radical economic transformation remains our overarching framework to expedite economic transformation.

To achieve economic transformation, this government will deepen the support needed by emerging entrepreneurs, especially those who remain marginalized. We want improve the participation of street traders, primary and secondary cooperatives and small business in the mainstream economy and monitor progress in this regard.

Operation Vula, as part of implementing Radical Economic Transformation, as the provincial government we have adopted Operation Vula Programme, we have identified some commodities which are more procured by government and put them as set-aside to be sourced from SMMEs and cooperatives. These commodities include Agricultural produces coordinated through RASET, furniture manufacturing,

detergents, clothing and textile especially for uniforms of government employees and protective clothes, building material, Pulp and Paper which produce toilet papers.

This programme also entails providing dedicated logistical support, training and mentorship which is key for success of small and micro enterprises.

Our efforts and interventions are geared towards ensuring that our economic transformation results in job creation – which will ultimately position KZN as a significant contributor towards the national target of 2 million jobs created by 2030.

The Department of Transport will accelerate the roll out of IGULA (Inclusive, Growth, Unity and Economic Liberation of Africans in particular, and Blacks in general within the wider transport sector. During this term of office, the Department of Transport will continue to impose the non-negotiable minimum of 35 percent in all major contracts issued by the department. Cooperatives and social enterprises will be our main focus in this current financial year in order to ensure their beneficiation in the value chain.

In this financial year, the Department is constructing 200 kilometres of new gravel road to connect rural communities, build five (5) pedestrian bridges and seven (7) vehicle bridges. Rehabilitation of some 2, 5 million square meters of our major roads which reached their lifespan will also receive attention.

Eyesizwe Contractors Development Programme, the Department of Public Works adopted this flagship affirmative programme as means to empower emerging contractors between CIDB Grade 1 to 6. The total number of the contractors on the database is 3186, 614 admitted in phase I (one) and 2572 admitted during the phase II (two) intake. This database has 1481 Women Contractors and 1415 Youth Contractors. At least R681 720 000.00 worth of projects were awarded to ECDP Contractors since 2015. Partnerships have been established with Ithala and Absa bank to provide bridging finance to contractors in need of financial assistance and guarantees, since October 2017. Going forward the Department has advertised for the Eyesizwe Contractors to include People with Disabilities and Military Veterans Contractors.

Operation Pay on time, among challenges that cripples SMMEs and hinders the success of economic transformation programme is the failure of government to pay on time. We are consolidating the approach to stop the bad and sometimes corrupt practice. As part of this approach Treasury is also implementing an Electronic Invoice Tracking Tools in Provincial Departments to monitor and fast-track payment of pay-on-time suppliers

Youth Economic Participation

At the beginning of this year we launched the KZN Provincial Youth Business Development fund which was capitalised by R50 million from the Premier's Office and R20 Million from EDTEA. Following the opening of applications early this year, the beneficiaries will be announced by the end of August 2019. We also commit to add another R50 million to the fund for the current financial year.

At the same time we have embarked on a campaign to mobilise the private sector to contribute through their corporate social investment to this fund.

Working with Provincial Treasury already we are beginning to realise the benefit of this campaign. We have agreed on a partnership with ABSA, wherein ABSA has allocated R70 Million loan to complement the youth business Fund. This means that given that the maximum limit of this fund is R 2 million, if that specific youth business needs more money, they would get it via this loan facility from ABSA. Through this partnership ABSA has further allocated a fund of R500 Million for SMMEs and Cooperatives which are doing business with KZN Provincial Government.

We will engage with the KZN Growth Coalition to mobilise its members to contribute to this fund and we have agreed on a deadline of August 2019.

STIMULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENHANCE EXPORTATION

The province has another unique feature, as it shares its borders with three (3) neighbouring African states of Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland thereby facilitating trade with these nations.

Furthermore, the strong road and rail links to the rest of Africa, through its neighbouring countries are complemented by an expansive port and airport infrastructure. Hence, prompted by these value propositions, our strategic focus will continue to be to reposition this province to become Africa's centre for trade, commerce and investment.

Compatriots and Honoured Members, we have embarked on an exercise to analyse the performance of economic sectors to assess changing trends.

Manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, oceans economy, oil-and gas, transport and logistics and several other identified sectors will remain a major focus by intervention by government.

These sectors have not only proven to be relatively labour-absorptive, but also have the potential to be expanded to strategically position KwaZulu-Natal as a lead investment destination and hence contribute to achieving the vision of KZN becoming a trade gateway within South and Southern Africa.

In addition, the province remains committed to encouraging the retention and expansion of existing business. It is one of our key strategies to ensure that the domestic market is correctly functioning at all times.

Manufacturing

Madam Speaker, we recall that manufacturing is one of the sectors - hardest hit by recession years ago - resulting in thousands of job losses. The share of manufacturing contribution to provincial economy will continue to decline unless we move with speed to turn around the situation.

About 315,000 people are employed in manufacturing, representing just of 12% of total formal and informal employment. We are determined to increase employment in this sector by driving investment towards automotive, agro-processing, food and beverages - wood and paper to name but a few.

As part of enhancing automotive sector, we are moving with establishment of the automotive supplier park which is located in the South of Durban. This initiative has strategic positioned to be a hub for automotive as some companies such Toyota have signed partnership with Dube Trade Port to locate some of its operation in the ASP. We remain committed to ensure that this park will be fully operational by 2021.

We have also undertaken to establish Auto Services hubs in the township in order to drive entrepreneurship through the Black Industrialist Programme. Linked to this is a clear plan to revitalize the old manufacturing parks located in various townships with Ithala playing a central role.

Agriculture, Food security and Agriculture revolution

Madam Speaker, ahead of the elections members of political parties interacted with communities who all expressed their concerns about spiralling fuel and food prices.

These higher prices, together with high interest rates, have reduced the purchasing power of households and narrowed profit margins of many firms, causing a drag on consumption and business fixed investment.

Provinces that are predominantly rural and with high levels of poverty such as Limpopo (25%), Eastern Cape (20%) and KwaZulu-Natal (20%) had the highest proportions of households that relied on agricultural activities to supply their own food.

Most households involved in agricultural activities were involved in the production of fruits and vegetables, grain and other food crops, as well as in livestock and poultry farming.

Although the main source of income for these households was social grants, most households involved in agricultural activities indicated that the main reason for their involvement is to supplement food for the household.

Over the next five years will see this province embarking on the agriculture revolution to ensure food security, the growth of the sector and job creation. Guided by the Agriculture Master Plan we aim to increase the value of agricultural contribution to the provincial economy from R 18 billion to R 23 billion by 2020.

In order to realize our long-term vision and to achieve all these targets, Agriculture Biotechnology remains extremely important. This province, in partnership with Africa Bio and the Department of Science and Technology, will host an international BIO Africa Convention in August this year.

Apart from learning best practices, we will establish partnerships specifically on Biotechnology applied in agro-processing. Our target over the next five years is to create 10 000 jobs through Agri-processing.

We will also use the Convention to attract investors to set up an Agro-Processing Facility at the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone which will complement the Dube Trade Port. Our records show that R210 million of produce has been processed or handled at the Dube AgriZone between 2015 and December 2018. We want to increase this figure, aggressively, over the next five years.

And we must ensure that the changes in legislation about cannabis and all the value streams do not miss the farmers and entrepreneurs of KZN.

Support Package to KZN farmers

Madam Speaker, during our inaugural speech on the 27 May we indicated that the Department of Agriculture must **“Provide a comprehensive support package to KZN farmers so that they can become more productive and profitable. This will include a dedicated mechanisation plan for small scale and subsistence farmers”**.

We want to assist emerging farmers that have been driven to bankruptcy by lack of farming skills and experience. Others have collapsed due to the high cost of inputs such as fuel, fertilizers, electricity and water.

As indicated in our inaugural address, we are initiating engagements with National Government to conduct the assessment of all farms that have been returned back to communities and determine required intervention. No agricultural land must lie fallow. Each and every piece of land must be utilised productively. The MEC for Agriculture will announce in her Budget Vote Speech an implementation plan in this regard.

We have to ensure that the Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA) is strengthened to support emerging black commercial farmers and rescue the land reform projects from collapse. We will also ensure that the Agency and all government agriculture training colleges work together to continuously improve our strategy and provide assist the farmers with training in order to reduce the skills gap. We will establish 10 Agri-hubs per year to assist these emerging farmers within our communities.

In this regard, government will roll out the National Young Producers and Entrepreneurs Strategy (YPES), which is a mechanism that promotes the sector amongst youth. Unemployed graduates will be assisted to gain on-the job experience and grow a pool of new but competent producers who will replace the ageing farmers.

As part of this programme, a total of **190 graduates will be placed initially on farms in the province through active support** from commercial farmers and enterprises who are mentors. We are pleased to say that at least **77 commercial** farmers have enlisted as mentors and we intend to grow this number.

Madame Speaker, we are committed to working with farmer’s unions, farmer worker unions and other stakeholders to produce agricultural products for provincial, national and international consumption. We want to link small and emerging farmers with RASET programme and with the existing established exporters.

A commodity think-tank in the form of the industry cluster will help drive agricultural production by focusing on both livestock and crops.

We have mandated the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to embark on the implementation of a livestock strategy which involves primary production as well as secondary value adding.

As Isilo said very emphatically yesterday, we want to unleash the potential of livestock in particular, given that 82% of KwaZulu Natal is suitable for this type of farming. Primary production aspects include primary animal health care, fences for grazing management, stock watering dams & boreholes, breeding & selection and feedlots. The secondary value adding includes abattoirs, deboning and packaging plants.

Mechanisation

Madam Speaker, to push back the frontiers of poverty, the mechanization programme will be strengthened through the distribution of tractors to all districts. A proper strategy to ensure control, maintenance and supervision of this programme will be unveiled soon.

Compatriots, we will also rely on His Majesty Isilo Samabandla whose love for farming is legendary. It is through Isilo Samabandla and the institution of traditional leadership that we will be able to encourage our people to prioritise agricultural production and supply many countries that have asked for our fresh agricultural products.

Lastly, on agriculture, we undertake to continue engaging with farmers and farm dwellers to resolve tensions, ensure harmony and working together.

Tourism

Honourable members, plans are underway to ensure that KZN remains a leading destination for domestic tourism. In 2017 the number of people directly employed in the Travel and tourism sector in KZN equated to **approximately 81 022, whilst the industry's total contribution to employment within the province was estimated at 162 044.**

In 2017, tourism's direct contribution to GDP in KZN was R9.4 billion while the total contribution to GDP was approximated at R18.8 billion. Going forward, our plan is plan is to increase the employment in tourism by creating 10 000 jobs over the next five years.

We will sustain our aggressive campaign to market and promote KZN on international platforms. We have also planned infrastructure projects that will help create more job opportunities whilst giving us a competitive edge. There are a few worth mentioning and these include:-

- A **R35 billion project which aims to create a “world class” beachfront promenade on the Durban’s Beachfront**. As you are all aware these will include a mix of residential units, business outlets and restaurants, 5 to 6 hotels as well as A and B-grade office blocks;
- Durban Eye/Wheel based in eThekweni: **This is a R375 million project for the construction of a “giant observation Ferris Wheel” that will offer a 360 degree panoramic view of Durban and its coastline**. It will consist of 27 fully enclosed air conditioned cabins which will hold 16 passengers each. The wheel will also offer two wheel chair friendly cabins, VIP cabins and cocktail-accessible cabins;
- **Mkhuze Airport City Development based in uMkhanyakude District Municipality. This project is valued at an estimated R2.8 billion and is aimed at creating both an airport and developing a precinct around the airport** that will provide aviation services in order to make the project both profitable and sustainable. The uMkhanyakude region is home to numerous game reserves; including the luxurious White Elephant tented camp. The construction of an airport will allow for easy access for tourists.

Honoured Guests and Honourable Members, we will continue to position KwaZulu-Natal as a destination of choice for prestigious events of global nature to promote business tourism and conferences. Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre and many other major sports events will help increase both national and international tourists.

Maritime - Oceans economy

Madam Speaker, allow me to turn our focus to the Maritime or the Oceans Economy.

Over the next five years, the provincial government aims to create more than 15 500 jobs from our longest coastline. Our objective is to also empower our citizens, especially young people, by granting them an opportunity to become a part of the Maritime sector.

Key amongst the targeted sub-sectors within the ocean economy are: drilling of oil and gas, cruise/marine tourism, aquaculture and fisheries. Towards the end of the 5th Administration we successfully managed to secure fishing licences for communities along the coastline of our province. EDTEA will now have to move with speed in building a fish process facility and further provide refrigerators for these cooperatives.

KwaZulu-Natal Province has benefitted immensely from hosting, on behalf of South Africa, meetings of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) – a forum of countries that are strategically located along the Indian Ocean. IORA has 21 Member States and seven (7) Dialogue Partners who have been meeting here in Durban since 2017 to discuss enhanced co-operation in the following six priority areas.

- Maritime Safety and Security;
- Trade and Investment Facilitation;
- Fisheries Management;
- Disaster Risk Management;
- Academic and Science and Technology Co-operation;
- Tourism Promotion and Cultural Exchange;

We continue to gain more lessons from member states, especially countries such as Malaysia and Singapore – to mention but a few. These countries have developed and sustainable models for their ports and logistics management. Having benchmarked from some of these countries, it is clear that we urgently need to improve our port governance, policies and pricing systems.

Madam Speaker, to enhance our competitiveness as a Maritime Gateway Province over the next five years we will prioritise the maritime skills capacity development through measures such as hosting of maritime careers and jobs expo to open up this sector for our people.

We will expand the maritime studies by forming more partnership between our Maritime Academy and high schools, TVETs, Universities of Technology and academic universities.

Foreign Direct Investment

Madam Speaker, over the next five years we will create more than 30 000 jobs through targeted foreign direct investments. In addition, more than 10 000 jobs to be created through intensive export promotion

The launch of Invest SA KwaZulu-Natal One Stop Shop by has helped ensure that doing business in the province is becoming easier by the day.

This facility, managed by Trade and Investment KZN, offers prospective investors a wide range of support services such as company registration, tax clearance, visa applications and all business registration requirements. One Stop Shops are available at Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone and Dube Trade Port.

We have succeeded in strengthening relations with national departments involved in this facility to ensure speed and efficiency in assisting potential investors. Now there is synergy within all role-players in the provincial investment agencies, local authorities and the relevant government departments involved in regulatory, registration, permits and licensing matters. This is what is needed in order to sustain foreign direct investment.

We see our two Special Economic Zones of Richards Bay and Dube Trade Port as key catalysts for foreign direct investment.

In April, the Provincial Government, hosted on behalf of South Africa, the first Special Economic Zones Conference. This conference examined the functioning of SEZs in the world and identified key interventions required to improve operations of our SEZs.

Madam Speaker, we are pleased to announce that RBIDZ will soon have a sod turning ceremony, paving the way for the construction of a **R1, 3 billion Palm Oil Refinery owned by Wilmar. This is the world renowned largest oil palm plantation** owner with operations in Indonesia, East Malaysia and some parts of Africa.

We congratulate RBIZ and uMhlathuze Local Municipality for working together to make it possible for this investment which will benefit local communities in terms of employment. The RBIDZ look set to convert more than R11, 5 billion of investments which are in the pipeline.

Coupled with this, we continue with our plan to develop the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zones, as a strategic site for energy infrastructure – especially Oil and Gas. Full details will be provided on this in due course.

On the other hand, it should be noted that 43 588 tonnes of international cargo has passed through the Dube Cargo Terminal between April 2015 and December 2018. **The greenhouses at the Dube AgriZone are now 100% occupied.** During the construction work at the Dube Trade Port, about 4,117 direct temporary jobs were created with 21, 330 indirect jobs also created for local communities.

The second phase of the Dube Trade Port is bringing 45 hectares of prime industrial land which will generate about R18 billion between now and 2024. Our vision to turning this SEZ into an aetropolis remains on course as we will launch our Aetropolis Masterplan before the end of this year.

Honoured Guests, let me take this opportunity to announce that before the end of this year, we will launch a fully operation of an African Smart Phones manufacturing plant at Dube Trade Port. This Smart phone manufacturing company, which is owned by Mara Group will invest R1.2 Billion, with the first phase expected to create no less than 1500 jobs.

PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Infrastructure Development

As the province we will adopt an aggressive approach on ensuring investment in the infrastructures development. This will include positioning the province to ensure coordination with national department, and further work on alignment with infrastructure projects that are led by the provincial government and those that are from the private sector. The strategic infrastructure projects that will be implemented during this term will include:

- Rail and Ports Development;
- N2 & N3 upgrades;
- The National government's Strategic Integrated Projects, SIP2 which is a part of the Durban-Free State-Gauteng Logistics and Industrial Corridor;
- Building of King Edward Hospital; and
- Construction of KZN Government Precinct

The Provincial Department of Human Settlement will continue with the implementation of Mega Human Settlement Projects which include:

- eThekweni: **Cornubia (25 000 houses):**
- Phase 1 which has 2 661 units has been completed and Phase 2 is already underway. Phase two will consists of 23 000 housing opportunities in the low or gap market housing, including rental, private development and social amenities.

- eThekweni Inner City: (10 585 social/rental/GAP housing): The partnership between the Department of Human Settlements and the City of eThekweni is driving an integrated planning approach to revitalising the inner-city of Durban.
- A Master Plan on Inner City Regeneration has been finalised making provision for an estimated 10 585 social/rental housing units.
- The KwaMashu Bridge City Urban Hub which will provide 27 875 housing units.
- The Umlazi Urban Regeneration project has 18 000 units and already involves the planning of approximately 2000 sites that will be serviced.
- The eThekweni Amaoti Greater Housing Project consisting of 20 000 units is underway.
- Further North, in Empangeni we are planning to build 10 000 houses with Phase 1A comprising of 488 sites for households who earn between R3,501 to R22,000.
- The Amajuba District – Johnston Blaaubosch which will 8 400 sites in Phase 2 is already underway.
- In KwaDukuza, 4600 units are planned for the Hyde Park project.

Honourable Speaker, we remain firm on the statement we made during the inauguration that the primary focus of our government in this term is the eradication of all transit camps. Currently we have consolidated all areas into one list, and the MEC for Human Settlement will present the plan and timelines for these projects.

As the Provincial Government, we have also mandated the department of Public Works and the Department of Transport to work on the establishment of the KwaZulu Natal State Infrastructure Development Agency which will participate in the construction sector.

The immediate task is to establish government capacity on planning and development, feasibility studies, project management and facility management. We aim to build the state capacity incrementally, starting with insourcing these functions within the next three years.

BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

Madame Speaker, a developmental state has a commitment to economic growth and transformation and tackles the root causes of poverty, inequality, and unemployment

The NDP commits that the state must actively and systematically build the capability to play a developmental and transformative role. A developmental state has a keen interest in building the capabilities of citizens to improve their own lives, while intervening to correct historical inequalities.

The NDP envisages an activist, democratic and developmental state which ***"has to be built, brick by brick, institution by institution, and sustained and rejuvenated over time. It requires leadership, sound policies, skilled managers and workers, clear lines of accountability, appropriate systems, and consistent and fair application of rules."***

Towards building and strengthening the capacity of the state, as the provincial government, we will embark on the following:

- Develop ongoing training to ensure a professional, responsive and caring state;
- Conduct skills audit in the next six months to assess the skills repository of all civil servants with the aim of ensuring that every employee is in a position where she or he can perform optimally;
- Through the Departments of COGTA and Finance we will also be conducting skills audits in all municipalities;
- We will put in place mechanisms to support employees who report activities of fraud and corruption;
- In all departments, in particular those that are providing services directly to the people, we will ensure that more resources are allocated directly to lower levels where services are rendered. It does not assist to have all resources at Provincial and Districts levels and then leave lower offices which render services with less resources;
- We must adopt plans which promote and compensate innovation, dedication and excellence as a means of encouraging professional and ethical conduct amongst civil servants;
- At the same time, a consequence management system will be strengthened to get rid of underperforming, corrupt officials who are internationally hindering service delivery. No case of corruption or lack of performance will be left unattended.

Fighting Corruption

During the Sixth Administration we **will put in place practical measures to uproot all forms of fraud and corruption such as tender rigging, price-fixing, fronting, nepotism, bribery and abuse of all state institutions for personal gain and to advantage friends and relatives.**

The KwaZulu-Natal Office of The Premier will work together **with civil society, the Faith-Based Community and Traditional Leaders to lead efforts to mobilise society in a campaign** against this scourge, popularise whistle-blowing and nurture a culture of clean government.

A programme will be rolled out to encourage ethical behaviour and transparency in procurement decisions, prohibiting all public servants and public representative levels from doing business with the state and the introduction of probity and life-style audits.

The following measures will be implemented:

- An Anti-Fraud and Corruption Hotline;
- Measures to Protect Chief Financial Officers, Supply Chain Management and Audit Officials and Identified Officials from abuse and threats;

- Treasury will immediately review Financial Delegations in order to limit the amounts of money that officials can approve;
- A Panel will be set up to Review all Big Contracts;
- We will institute measures to end the Abuse of Sections 32 and 36 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA);
- Address the Practice of Price-Fixing and Collusion; and,
- Ensure that all procurement delivers Value for Money.

Operation Siyahlola to improve provision of services and Batho Pele Principles

As part of improving service delivery and quality of services provided to the people, the Premier's Office will embark on Operation Siyahlola which will focus on monitoring the functioning of departments, government service centres and the implementation of government projects.

It is time that we end the culture of impunity for those who do not live by the principles of Batho Pele and ethical conduct in the public service.

SOCIAL COMPACT: A CALL FOR UNITY IN PURPOSE

Fellow Compatriots, we have presented a detailed account and programmatic interventions the provincial government is executing to address the current grimy challenges in pursuit of a better the lives of our people. No matter how noble are our goals or how expressive are programme, the success of the province lies in the unity of all of us. We need to forge more trust and build consensus.

- We need to unite to break the restrains that hinder economic growth, and plunge the people into undignified conditions of unemployment and poverty.
- We need to unite and break the grimy social ills that obliterate joy, human compassion and prosperity amongst our people.
- We need to unit and break the resilient challenges of corruption, fraud and poor performance that affect the effectiveness of our government

We must strengthen our social compact for growth and development. Such a compact needs the full participation and commitment of business, labour, civil society, and communities as a whole.

This is the kind of unity His Majesty instructed us as members of this legislature to adopt. Bayede Amazwi akho akawelanga edwaleni, sizwile futhi siyavuma.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION:

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, we are not standing here out of our own wisdom and knowledge. I firstly wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Members of the Executive Council for their valuable work and contribution in all the programmes we are pursuing.

I also wish to sincerely thank His Majesty, INdlunkulu and Amakhosi aseNdlunmkulu led by Inkosi Chiliza for guidance and counsel they always provide to us as the Executive Council.

I wish to thank all Members and Structures of the Provincial Legislature.

We have no doubt that you will perform your oversight work robustly and in the spirit of building our province.

I also wish to thank all the structures of Business, Labour and Civil Society, who are our true partners for development.

I also extend word of appreciation to the Director-General Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize, HODs, and all hard working public servants for their unreserved commitment to our citizens.

A big thanks to my entire family, in particular my wife Neli Zikalala, for always being supportive not just to me, but also to the cause of the struggle for socio-economic transformation.

We shall forever be grateful to the people of KwaZulu-Natal, on whose shoulders we stand.

The Premier is a deployee of the African National Congress mandated to serve to the best of his abilities, all the people of KZN. I therefore would like to thank the ANC for its support and guidance on this enormous responsibility to lead our government towards the full realisation of the ideals of the Freedom Charter.

CONCLUSION: THE PEOPLE OF KZN CAN BE BIGGER THAN THEIR CHALLENGES

Once again, lets always remember our forefather Seme when he said ***“The brighter day is rising upon Africa. Already I seem to see her chains dissolved; Her desert plains red with harvest.”***

We have no doubt that we will emerge from contemporary restrains and usher into the brighter days of the rising Africa. As the people of KZN, we have always transcended these challenges and turned adversity into opportunity.

We are the creation of the Zulu warriors led by King Cetshwayo to the impi yaseSandlwana neyase Ncome. We are the diverse people of Adam Kok, Bishop Colenso, and descendants of Indians who were brought on our shores as indentured labourers.

We are the combatants of struggle inspired by Harry Gwala, Moses Kotane and Steven Dlamini to break the shackles of oppression and exploitation.

From our dusty rural townships and informal settlements we transform disability into strength.

Siwumlilo we Big NUZ and the sound beat of DJ Black Coffee, Sjava and Buccie.

And our children will take heed in knowing that we pay homage to our heroes and heroines because, as Mazisi we Kunene attested, indeed life does not begin or end with us.

May God Bless Africa, Her sons and daughters.

Thank you very much.