



STATEMENT OF KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF 22 APRIL 2015

The Provincial Executive Council ('Executive Council') held its ordinary meeting of the year on Wednesday 22nd April 2015 in Pietermaritzburg.

The past few weeks saw the escalation of violence directed against foreign nationals in and around Durban, and later other parts of the country that led to displacement of people and loss of lives. At its last meeting held on the 1st April, the Executive Council had taken a strong position against violence directed at foreign nationals, and thus denounced any form of violence, discrimination, intolerance and looting. In its first statement since the outbreak of violence against foreign nationals, the Executive Council affirmed its commitment to the respect and protection of human rights. The Executive Council expressed its appreciation to the people of KwaZulu-Natal in particular and the whole of South Africa in general, who voted with their feet in various marches held around the country under the call of "Africa Unite – No to Xenophobia".

The Executive Council was pleased with the progress that has been made as a result of a week-long integrated programme of action involving provincial and national government and eThekweni Municipality to protect lives and end violence within the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. The Executive Council also applauded His Majesty for convening imbizo, and for his call for peace and protection of immigrants. To this end, provincial government is continuing with its programme of community engagements to consolidate peace gains that have been achieved over the last week. The Executive Council thanked all government officials, security and emergency services personnel who worked tirelessly to bring about stability against the blight of this violence against foreign nationals.

1. Key Executive Council Decisions

1.1 Draft Terms of Reference for the Reference Group regarding attacks on foreign nationals

The Executive Council approved in principle the appointment of Members of the Premier's Reference Group on Migration and Community Integration in KwaZulu-Natal and its Terms of Reference. Among the key issues the Reference Group will advise the Executive Council on, are the United Nations and African Union position with regard to migrants. It will also advise on international practices regarding migrants including but not limited to regulatory framework on refugees and economic migrants. Most critically, the Reference Group will look into factors that give rise to discontent and tensions between locals and immigrants in South Africa particularly in KwaZulu-Natal.

The members of the Reference Group are:



- i. Judge Navanethem “Navi” Pillay (Convenor)
- ii. Comfort Ngidi
- iii. Vasu Gounden
- iv. Paddy Kearney
- v. Stephanie Miller
- vi. Karen Lotter; and
- vii. Muzi Ntombela

1.2 Use of Consultants in Provincial Government Departments

The Executive Council was informed about the outcomes of the investigation into the use of consultants by Provincial Government Departments. This followed a front page article in the City Press of 22 February 2015, which had made an assertion that KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government had made use of consultants to a staggering amount of R6.5 billion.

The report was thus misleading and was based on wrong analysis of the Economic Classification of item “Consultants, contractors and agency/outsourced services” in the 2013/14 Consolidated Financial Statement. The meeting noted that the amount paid by Provincial Government for use of consultants is R872 million and not R6.5 billion. In this regard, the Executive Council resolved that Provincial Government Departments that require specialist skills not available within the employ of the department may procure the services of consultants within the prevailing government prescripts.

2. Key Government Programmes

2.1 Cabinet Operation Sukuma Sakhe at Harry Gwala District

The Executive Council was briefed on the Cabinet Operation Sukuma Sakhe scheduled for 29 April 2015 at Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality. The theme for the OSS in Harry Gwala is “Chronic Diseases”. Members of Executive Council will visit various projects and participate in community engagements in Twelve (12) Wards.

2.2 The 365 Days Campaign against Rape

The Executive Council noted the “Campaign against Rape”, which will be rolled-out in 2015/16 Financial Year. The campaign will entail among other activities – a workshop to develop the Anti-rape Strategy, 05 May 2015; establishing a team that will be the face of the Campaign, which will include the Premier, MECs, First Ladies and oNdlunkulu in the Province; and establishment of a specialised institutional mechanism in the South Africa Police Services to deal with rape.

2.3 Vacancies in KwaZulu-Natal Liquor Authority and KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board

The Executive Council approved appointment of Board Members to occupy vacancies at the Board of Directors of the KwaZulu-Natal Liquor Authority and the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board.

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