



## **STATEMENT OF KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

[23 March 2016]

The Provincial Executive Council ('Executive Council') on Wednesday 23 March 2016, held its ordinary meeting in Pietermaritzburg. The meeting was chaired by Premier Senzo Mchunu and attended by Members of the Executive Council.

### **1.1 KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Policy for Granting Bursaries and Scholarships**

The Executive Council approved amendments to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Policy for Granting Bursaries and Scholarships to External Candidates. The approval of the amendments to the policy, is meant to advance Vision 2030 of the Provincial Growth and Development Plan by setting necessary parameters that would ensure that Provincial Government provides financial assistance to deserving youth in order to expand skills base.

Among key objectives of the Bursary Policy are to:

- (i). Grant financial assistance to deserving youth who undertake studies in specifically identified areas where there is a critical shortage of employees with suitable qualifications or scarce/critical skills within the administration;
- (ii). Give effect to the affirmative action initiatives of the administration and support and promote the principles of employment equity;
- (iii). Assist deserving youth who have the potential but lack the financial resources to further their studies;
- (iv). Assist deserving youth to enter the labour market; and
- (v). Assist departments to acquire the necessary competencies to achieve their functional and strategic objective.

## **1.2 Intergovernmental Relations Protocol on School Safety**

The Executive Council approved an Intergovernmental Relations Protocol on School Safety in for the Province. The protocol is a joint initiative of the Provincial Department of Education and the Department of Community Safety and Liaison. This protocol will serve as the vehicle for joint promotion of school safety by the Department of Education, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison and the South African Police Service. Among key objectives this protocol seeks to promote are efficiency and effectiveness of School Safety Committees; efficiency and effectiveness of the SAPS in respect of school safety; transformation of schools into safe and secure environments by eradicating elements threatening safety where quality teaching and learning can take place; and addressing incidents of crime and violence in a holistic and integrated manner.

## **1.3 Inspection results of KwaZulu-Natal Public Health Establishments**

The Executive Council noted the positive results achieved by the Province's health facilities following their inspections by the Office of the Health Standards Compliance. These inspections are independently conducted in an unannounced manner within hospitals and clinics to assess compliance with the National Core Standards (NCS) for health establishments. The performance of the KwaZulu-Natal Health facilities was above the national average when the national benchmark was done. The Executive Council applauded the health facilities that achieved compliance status over the past three years (2012-2015).

These are Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, Greys Hospital, Benedictine Hospital, Catherine Booth Hospital, Edendale Hospital, GJ Crooke's Hospital, Port Shepstone Hospital; and Dududu Clinic.

## **1.4 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) School Maintenance Programme**

The Executive Council was apprised on the expansion of the School Maintenance Programme as part of the overall Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The Provincial Department of Public Works and the Department of Education will be implementing the EPWP School Maintenance Programme. The maintenance programme is targeting the manual clearance of schools and is focused on Poverty Eradication Programme. This will be implemented through unemployed and unskilled young people from the poorest communities. Among programmes they will be enrolled on, will be school yard maintenance, cleaning of classrooms and offices, basic maintenance and repairs to school infrastructure and waste collection. A total of four thousand (4000) participants are targeted for the programme. The Executive Council resolved that the programme be implemented through the structures of Operation Sukuma Sakhe.

## **2. Other key issues**

### **2.1 Easter Holiday Road Safety and Launch of Law Enforcement Campaign**

The Executive Council noted the official launch of the Provincial Easter Holiday Road Safety and Law Enforcement Campaign that will begin in Port Shepstone.

## **2.2 Celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's March**

The Provincial Gender Machinery coordinated by the Office of the Premier and the Department of Social Development will coordinate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities in the Province. This is a major milestone in remembrance of the historic struggle against apartheid, which was led by women and contributed in bringing to an end a repressive regime. It will be celebrated along other historic milestones, namely 20 Years of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 and 40 Years since June 1976 uprising.

## **3. Cabinet Outreach Programme**

The Executive Council will hold its Cabinet Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) Day at uMgungundlovu District on 30 March 2016 at uMkhambathini Local Municipality. In this Municipality, the focus will among other issues focus on prevalence of social ills, including high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, TB and substance abuse.

The Provincial Government remains resolute in advancing the theme of a Province that is growing, developing and caring as articulated by Premier Senzo Mchunu in his State of the Province Address in February 2016. To this end, the Executive Council will on this day focus on the:

- (i). Fight against any treatment that is de-humanizing and degrading, any cruel and unusual punishment, including any form of torture and capital punishment;
- (ii). Preservation and the affirmation of fundamental civil rights like freedom of speech and expression;
- (iii). Promote drought intervention plans and programmes;
- (iv). Spreading the message to save water;
- (v). Aggressive consumer education, public awareness and communication with all stakeholders; and
- (vi). Encouraging citizens to register or to check their voter status at their nearest voting stations.

**The Executive Council wishes all the people of KwaZulu-Natal and those visiting our province, a safe and peaceful period during this Easter break.**

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government

### **Enquires:**

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