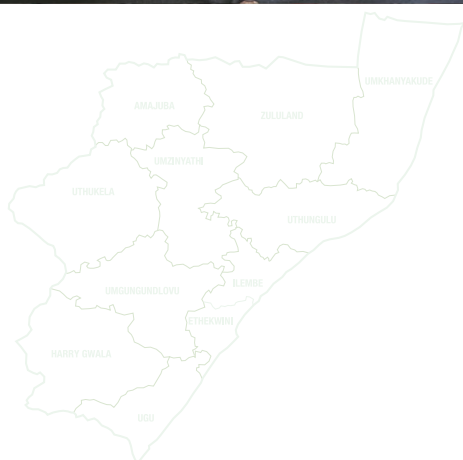




KWAZULU-NATAL
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



SOPA

STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**



#GrowKZN • #KZNSOPA2020

BY THE HONOURABLE
MR SIHLE ZIKALALA
PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL

04 MARCH 2020



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT 8 PRIORITIES

1



Basic Services

2



Job Creation

3



Growing the Economy

4



Growing SMMEs and Cooperative

5



Education and Skills Development

6



Human Settlement and sustainable livelihood

7

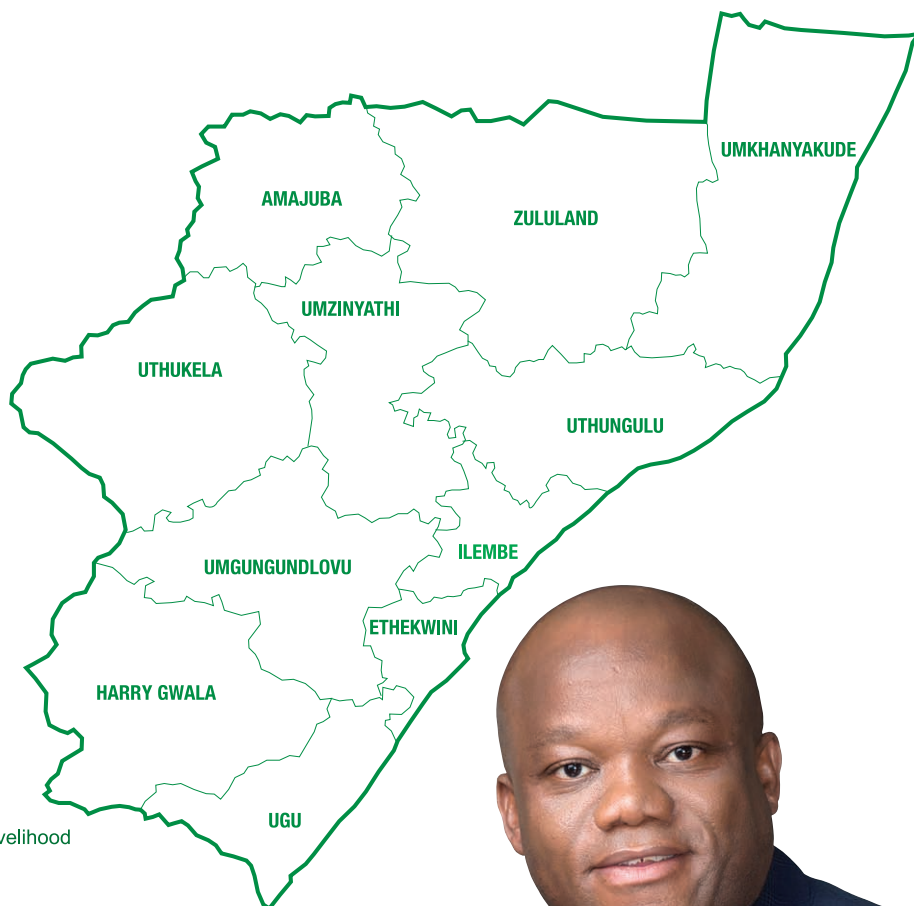


Build a Peaceful Province

8



Build a caring and incorruptible government



MR SIHLE ZIKALALA
PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL

**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**

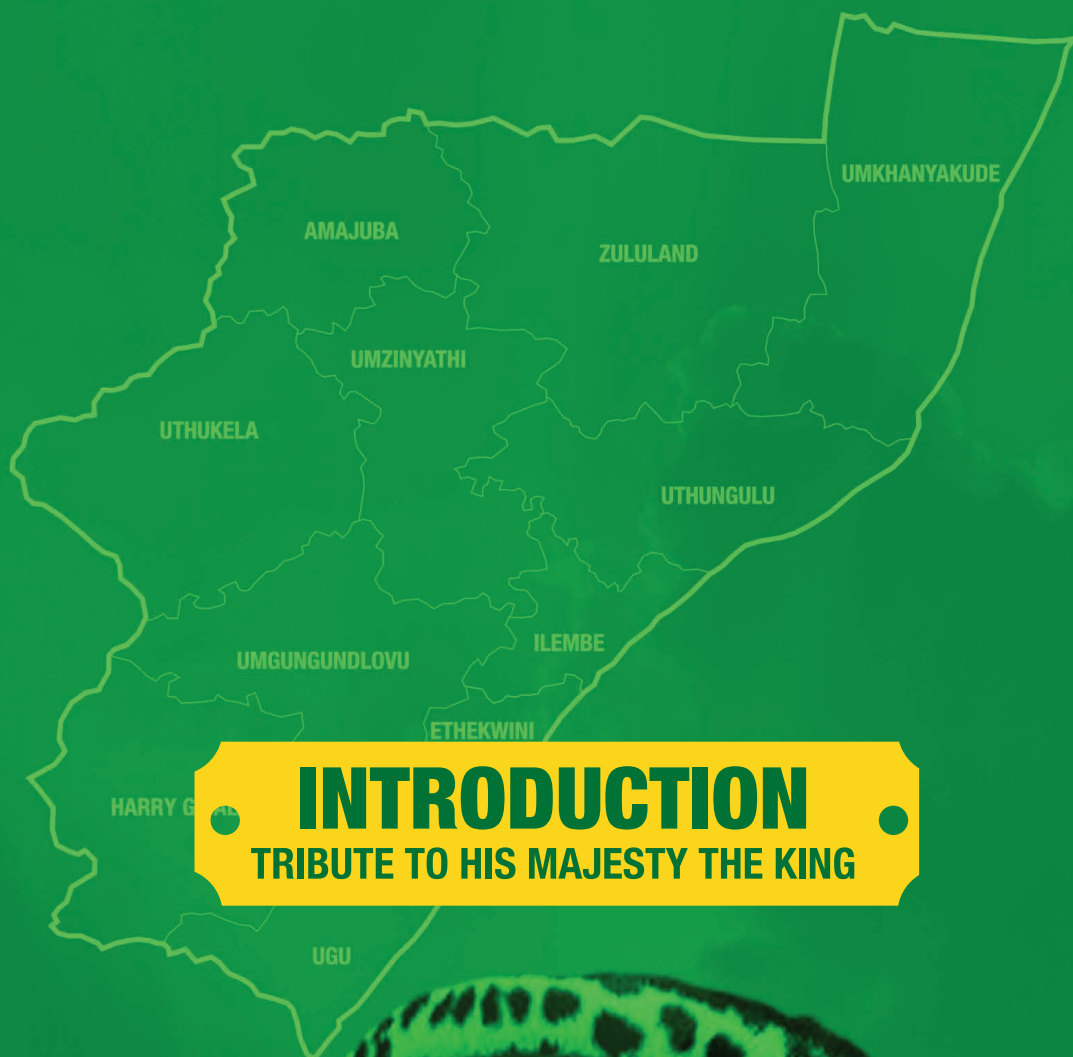
STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS BY PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL, HON. SIHLE ZIKALALA, ROYAL SHOW GROUNDS, PIETERMARITZBURG, 04 MARCH 2020

Theme: *Together, Creating Our Common Future*

- His Majesty - Hlanga Lomhlabathi;
- Queen Mothers;
- Ondlunkulu Besilo;
- Abantwana BaseNdlunkulu;
- 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;
- Members of the NCOP present;
- Former Premier - Mr W Mchunu and Spouse,
- Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the KZN Legislature;
- Honourable Mr Justice A Jappie, Judge President - KZN Division;
- Honourable Members of the Provincial Executive;
- Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;
- Mayors and Councillors of Local Government;
- Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt. Genera. K E Jula;
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;
- Director-General of KZN, Dr NO Mkhize;
- Heads of Provincial Departments;
- Members of the Provincial Planning Commission;
- Representatives of the Business community;
- Representatives of Labour;
- Academics;
- Religious Leaders;
- Struggle Stalwarts and their Families present;
- All other social partners and broader civil society present;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;
- Viewers and listeners at home



MR SIHLE ZIKALALA
PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL



HARRY G. ...

INTRODUCTION

TRIBUTE TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING

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INTRODUCTION: TRIBUTE TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING

We are honoured this morning to be graced by the presence of His Majesty, iSilo Samabandla Onke.

His Majesty's work fulfils the vision we have set ourselves that by 2030, "KwaZulu-Natal will be a prosperous Province with a healthy, secure and skilled population, living in dignity and harmony, acting as a gateway to Africa and the World."

We can never thank uHlanga Lomhlabathi enough for his leadership, wisdom, and guidance. He remains the province's ultimate symbol of unity, peace, and development.

We are also appreciative that His Majesty is at the centre of saving lives and empowering communities through his collaboration with government in the fight against the epidemics of HIV and TB.

His Majesty is also known as a tireless champion for rich cultural heritage and a promoter of moral regeneration.

It is thanks to His Majesty's tireless efforts and campaigns to improve educational outcomes in the province that our province last year attained the impressive 81.3 % pass rate with the matric class of 2019.

Once more, we congratulate the class of 2019, our teachers, principals, parents and the leadership of the Department of Education for this remarkable feat.

The ANC-led government is acutely aware of our responsibility to our provincial population of 11.3 million people - with a significant rural component and deeply reflective of our triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The provincial leadership is actively building a social compact for sustainable development between government, business, labour and civil society. Our religious and traditional leaders are recognised as pillars of our social cohesion programme.

What truly moves us are the hopes and aspirations of our youth, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

We remain on course to build a united, non-racial, non-sexist, equal and prosperous society.

Our government, led by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, has a plan to restore the dignity of all South Africans and to improve the lives of our people. It is a plan that is informed by the electoral mandate of the ruling party and Vision 2030 of the National Development Plan.

Last year, President Ramaphosa identified seven priorities for his government to improve the lives of our people. These are:

- (i) Economic transformation and job creation;
- (ii) Education, skills and health;
- (iii) Consolidating social wage through reliable and quality basic services;
- (iv) Spatial integration, human settlements and local government;
- (v) Social cohesion and safe communities;
- (vi) A capable, ethical and developmental state; and
- (vii) A better Africa and a better world.

Informed by these national priorities and our unique challenges and opportunities, our province adopted the following eight provincial priorities for the 6th Administration which we have now extended as follows:

1. Basic services (especially access to clean potable water)
2. Job creation
3. Growing the economy
4. Growing SMMEs and cooperatives
5. Education, health, and skills development
6. Human settlements and sustainable livelihood
7. Build a peaceful province
8. Build a caring and incorruptible government

2020 SOPA theme

Madam Speaker, we present this State of the Province Address at the dawn of the new decade. Last year we undertook to break the grimy restraints that hinder a healthy, safe, growing and developmental KwaZulu-Natal. We stand here today to account to our citizens and inform them that the seeds of success we planted last year are germinating. We commit to making the year 2020 a year of heightened mobilisation to achieve these objectives.

The theme for the 2020 SOPA is therefore ***Together, Creating Our Common Future***. This is an affirmation that the people of KwaZulu-Natal themselves are the most important ingredient for ensuring the development of our province.

This is confirmed by the founding President of our democracy - Nelson Mandela who writes in **Long Walk to Freedom** that:

“My country is rich in minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds.”

Far from treating people as a problem or a burden, in the 30th anniversary of Madiba's release from prison, we are called to see our people as a resource for development and catalyst for change.

We stand here inspired by Madiba's unshakable faith in the agency of ordinary South Africans to be their own liberators. He reminds us that government must never view itself as a force on a high and possessing the monopoly of wisdom on resolving the challenges of the day.

We affirm Madiba's conviction that our government's programmes are but a platform for our citizens to let their strengths and abilities shine through; and that they can never be a remedy for all past ills.

At the dawn of this new decade of freedom, we recommit ourselves as this 6th Administration to strengthen our developmental state so that it can best serve our people to reach their full potential.

We gather today to ensure that the choices we make about our common future will reflect our hopes, not our fears.

Yes, we the people in all our diversity, are KZN's greatest asset and treasure.

We remain alive with endless possibilities.



Last year we planted new seeds. As we gather here today to renew our covenant, we are proud to proclaim that these seeds are now germinating.

While we know there will be no gain without pain, the choices that we make today will reflect our hopes, not our fears.

We are inspired by Madiba's unshakable faith in the agency of ordinary South Africans to be their own liberators. We recall, equally, that government must never view itself as a force on a high and possessing the monopoly of wisdom on resolving the challenges of the day.

This State of the Province Address is about reporting to the people of KwaZulu-Natal on the progress that we are making on our priorities, to state our challenges, and most importantly, to mobilise all the people of this province to play their own part to move our province forward.

In preparing for this address, I have interacted with our people on farms, at train stations, at taxi ranks, at traffic lights and on social media.

Despite the challenges they face in their daily lives, they have not given up hope for a better tomorrow. Take the comment we received from Shreya Singh, an 11-year-old from Northlands Primary School. In her assistance to the Premier's preparation for this Address, she wrote:

“Dear Premier Sihle Zikalala; I am excited that coding and robotics are going to be included in the school curriculum. I hope that my school is chosen as one of the pilot schools”.

Thank you, Shreya, the MEC for Education will within the next two weeks visit your school to facilitate this request and conduct a feasibility study. The Department of Education will announce a pilot school for coding and robotics in each of the 11 district in our province.

It is this kind of optimism from our young citizens that inspires us to embrace with vigour the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

We dare not linger, we dare not fail them.

It is a group from our province, Ladysmith Black Mambazo which in pursuing their dreams, went on to win five Grammy Awards and brought glory to our nation.



It is a group of learners from KwaZulu-Natal who at the end of January 2020 won the prestigious 5th International School Moot Court Competition in Poland, after beating the USA in the finals.

Six homebrewed film productions, funded by the KZN Film Commission, have just been nominated for the South African Film and Television Awards. We value the creative sector in KwaZulu-Natal and the role they play in reimagining our nation, building social cohesion and agitating against gender-based violence.

As a province, we are proudly reflective of South Africa's rich cultural diversity with 87% Black African, 7.9% Indian, 3.9% white and 1.2% coloured. We want to unite and mobilise all our people behind a singular effort towards meaningful and inclusive economic growth.

We are mindful of our historic apartheid fault-lines and the contradictions that we need to manage as we move forward.

Building social cohesion is a key imperative which underpins economic transformation.

We have emerged strongly from a period of political uncertainty and even instability at a provincial level.

Having consolidated at the provincial level, our political attention is now focused on the local sphere of government because of the serious challenges there and because that is where our policies and programmes are ultimately implemented.

Our decisive leadership was demonstrated recently when we overhauled two of the biggest municipalities, eThekweni and Msunduzi. This was a necessary political intervention in the best interests of our people as a whole.

IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARIES AND ACCOLADES

Madam Speaker, 2020 marks 60 years of the founding of **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**, a group which brought respect for our country across the globe. We applaud the decision by the President to nominate the founder of the group, uBaba u-Joseph Shabalala, for the national Order of Ikhamanga in gold.

KZN Arts and Culture will commence with the construction in 2020/21 of the Music Academy in Ladysmith in support of developing talent in the creative and cultural industry.

This year marks 60 years since the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Inkosi Albert Luthuli.

We also mark the 60th anniversary of uKhozi FM.

In 2020, our province and country will remember 25 years of the **Shobashobane Massacre** which took place on Christmas Day in 1995 at eZinqoleni on the Lower South Coast. We will use this commemoration to deepen peace, strengthen unity and engender political tolerance. As part of these efforts, our government will support the production of a TV and radio documentary and oral history booklet based on this saga.

2020 also marks the centenary birthdays of two stalwarts of our freedom, Harry Gwala and Raymond Mhlaba. To honour them, a series of lectures, workshops and debates are planned throughout the province. We call on filmmakers, theatre practitioners, curators, publishers, writers and funders to play a role in preserving the histories of these national heroes.

We likewise mark the centenary of the founding of newspaper, Umteleli wa Bantu, as well as 200 years of the arrival of the 1820 British Settlers.

One hundred and sixty years ago this November, the first Indian indentured workers were shipped by the British to our province as labour for the sugar plantations. They and their descendants have played an important role in our national struggle for freedom and the economic development of KwaZulu-Natal.

We recognise from among them Mam' Phyllis Naidoo, Swaminathan Gounden, Mac Maharaj and Kay Moonsamy recipients of the Order of Luthuli for their contribution to struggle and; Sam Ramsamy, Muthal Naidoo and Ronnie Govender, recipients of the Order of Ikhamanga for their contribution to arts, culture, literature and sport.

This month our country also commemorates 60 years since the **Sharpeville** and **Langa Massacres** and 65 years since the adoption of the **Freedom Charter**, all of which changed the course of our history. In fulfilment of the Freedom Charter's declaration that People Shall Govern, our people now do govern and are creating a common future together.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION

Madam Speaker, Tsoroh Mkhonza wrote to me on Facebook: "I would be very happy if our Provincial Government could put more effort in promoting township economy as part of job creation."

Similarly, Phumelele Alex Ndawo wrote: "Can you please turn the tables on agriculture ibe serious like kuthelwe negabhanoyi emasimini."

I wish to assure both of them and many others whom took the time to talk to us that their input is valued and that this State of the Province Address will address their concerns.

Global economic developments

Madam Speaker, the global economy is under strain. The spread of the coronavirus is threatening the long expected rebound in global trade.

Rising geopolitical tensions could disrupt global oil supply, hurt sentiment, and weaken already fragile business investment.

Trade policy uncertainty and pressures in key emerging market economies continue to weigh on global economic activity particularly for manufactured products.

Brexit remains a concern for the global economy and more so to South Africa due to our strong ties with the UK.

The USA's decision to revoke World Trade Organisation (WTO) subsidy preferences for South African goods is a clear indication of challenges we must manage in the year ahead.

Domestic economic developments

Our own economy is trapped in a low-growth cycle.

Over the past decade, we have struggled to sustain growth in the face of weak business and consumer confidence and mounting difficulties at state-owned enterprises.

Unemployment figures released recently by Stats SA paint a grim picture of our economy where 29.1% of the working-age people remain jobless at a time when our population continues to grow.

Despite this, we are encouraged that we are one of four provinces that show employment growth with a net gain of 39,000 jobs.

These latest numbers stress the need for government to speedily implement policies that will inspire confidence and encourage investment.

The national fiscal framework, as set out by the Minister of Finance, binds us all. Yes, we too will have to deal with the implications of fiscal consolidation and budget cuts.

We also have the added burden of reduced provincial equitable share. In 2020/2021 we will receive ..., compared to ... we received last year.

But we cannot be paralysed by any of this. This is the time to mobilise our people's creativity.

For our part as government, we must make our own contribution to reducing the national budget deficit and debt. But most importantly, we need to make our own contribution to GDP growth.

Madam Speaker, the President declared in his State of the Nation Address that we have reached a pivotal moment. Indeed, we have a choice, either to succumb to or confront our challenges.

Our immediate, vital and overarching task is to place our economy on a path of inclusive growth that must include SMME development. To this end, government is bolstering programmes, such as Enterprise Development, Operation Vula, Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation (RASET) in addition to bulk-buying, youth empowerment and support for black industrialists.

Digital economy

Madam Speaker, the digital economy is a driver of growth and creator of employment in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Government is rolling out telecommunication infrastructure, including broadband networks and digital innovation hubs.

The province will soon enter into an agreement with Broadband Infraco to provide layer two network services to be used by Dube Trade Port to provide over 810 Wi-Fi hotspots at 405 selected sites across all the province.

Over the next five years, the Moses Kotane Institute will ensure that substantial rural communities are digitally connected.

I am happy to report that connection of seven rural municipalities is at various stages of completion: uKhahlamba has been completed, whilst procurement process is underway to connect Kokstad and Umfolozi local municipalities and the collaboration framework to guide connection of Mandeni and Mpofana is awaiting signing by the concerned parties.

SAA flight terminations

We are concerned about the negative impact of the recent decision to stop SAA flights to Durban. We are continuing to engage the relevant parties to review this decision.



2019/2020 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

KwaZulu-Natal investment outlook

Madam Speaker, we are delighted to report that investment commitments to the province worth over R15-billion since May 2019 are materialising.

These investments arise mainly from our Investment Booklet which contains approximately R200 billion (\$13.6 billion) worth of investment project opportunities with a potential to create about half a million decent job opportunities. These opportunities are packaged in the booklet that span across all priority sectors of this province inclusive of manufacturing, tourism and property development, renewable energy, health care and agro-processing.

Enterprise Development

In support of the Provincial Government's quest to accelerate economic development in the province through the establishment of viable, sustainable and employment creation enterprises, EDTEA disbursed a total R226-million to small enterprises, thereby facilitating the creation of 3 284 jobs. A further R63.4-million was disbursed to women-owned businesses creating 1 382 jobs in the process, at the same time R57.1-million expended on youth-owned business generated 655 job opportunities.

Youth empowerment and job creation

In October 2019, the province offered more than R71-million to 55 youth-owned enterprises through the KZN Youth Empowerment Fund, the first of its kind in the history of South Africa. One of our beneficiaries is Albert Mkhwanazi, a 26-year-old from Groutville whose Khethi-Bet Trading (Pty) Ltd received R1.8-million from the Youth Fund. This young person operates a business in the steam and hot water supply industry and steam geyser manufacturing.

Similarly, 33-year-old Nonhlanhla Gumede of Uthandimvelo Trading, an emerging business operating in the sugarcane industry in Stanger is currently supplying Tongaat Hullet Mill. The business received grant funding of R1.45-million, with which it has sustained 10 permanent and created 25 temporary jobs.

Currently, our Youth Directorate has embarked on road shows in the province to prepare young people for the next round of the Youth Fund which will be advertised in the new financial year. In these road shows, we have partnered with the Department of Small Business Development and the NYDA which was tasked by President Ramaphosa to identify 1000 young entrepreneurs for funding within 100 days of the SONA.

Graduate Internship Programme

The creation of jobs remains one of the key priorities in the current Medium Term Strategic Framework. Cogta's placement of 500 interns in municipalities by March 2020, which was announced in 2019/2020 within the framework of its Youth Development Strategy, is proceeding as planned. A total of 349 interns have already been assigned to various municipalities across the province, while the balance of 151 interns are to be placed before the end of March 2020.



Operation Vula Fund

The Operation Vula Fund enables our entrepreneurs and enterprises with innovative and employment creating business ideas to access grant funding from the government. The Fund focuses on sectors of strategic importance to the province.

The funding process opened in October 2019 with a budget of R65-million. A total of 2 841 applications were received. EDTEA is currently finalising the adjudication of all these applications and the process will be finalised before the end of the financial period.

Operation Vula Fund is envisaged to form the bedrock of enterprise development in the medium term framework and a provision for R150 million has been made in the 2020/21 budget estimates.

Attracting investment

The Provincial Government has made strides in attracting major companies to operate in two of our Special Economic Zones, namely Dube Trade Port and Richards Bay IDZ.

The year under review saw:

- the launch of **Mara Group**, Africa's first cell phone manufacturer, investing more than R1-billion and creating more than 300 permanent jobs in the province.
- **Ubuhle Towels (Pty) Ltd**, a 75% black women-owned company, investing R132-million in towel manufacturing
- **Elegant Afro Line (Pty) Ltd**, a 100% black women-owned company, investing about R900 million in chemicals in the Richards Bay IDZ.
- **Nyanza Light Metal**, a 100% black-owned company, investing R4.5-billion in production of titanium dioxide pigments. Construction of the top structure at RBIDZ Phase 1F is expected to resume in April 2020.

We are also glad to report that the province won the rights to host the World Halaal Day 2020. This event will be part of the KwaZulu-Natal International Investment Conference which is aimed at attracting investments in priority sectors of the provincial economy.

Economic infrastructure

The 2019 International Investment Conference saw the launch of the Durban Aerotropolis Master Plan which envisions the development of a globally-connected airport city around King Shaka International airport. To increase passenger connectivity in the province, EDTEA is also providing funding to upgrade regional airport infrastructure.

EDTEA has similarly provided R30-million towards the construction of a terminal building at Mkhuze airport following the runway upgrade. EDTEA is also working with Ray Nkonyeni local municipality to upgrade Margate airport terminal building with R6-million following its transfer to the municipality.

Significant progress towards the establishment of the automotive supplier park has been made with engineering studies having been completed and an implementation MOU between EDTEA, Dube Trade Port and eThekweni has been signed by all the three parties.

Going forward, EDTEA is also working with the Department of Trade and Industry towards the development of Clothing and Textiles SEZs in the province with the identification and suitability assessments of the sites having been completed.

The export promotion programme aimed at broadening market access for KZN products saw 103 export opportunities being created. Twenty KZN companies have enrolled for the exporter competitiveness programme and sustained 1 605 jobs. Overall, our business retention and expansion support provided to companies in distress resulted in R860-million expansion investment and 910 jobs retained.

Business regulations

EDTEA has developed an automated online business information management system which provides a platform for businesses in KZN to apply for business licences and informal economy permits online. The system has been piloted in Newcastle, Nongoma, Inkosi Langalibalele, Mandeni, Nkandla, Mtubatuba, uMlalazi, OKhahlamba, Mthonjaneni, Jozini, Maphumulo and Emadlangeni municipalities.

Furthermore, EDTEA has established the municipal business licensing technical team to provide business licencing capacity to municipalities. During the year under review, a total of 774 inspections were carried out in various sectors, including 663 truck inspections.

Tourism development

It was Mrs AC Dube, a relative of Dr JL Dube who wrote in the poem, Africa My Native Land”

“How beautiful are thy hills and thy dales!
I love thy very atmosphere so sweet
Thy trees adorn the landscape rough and steep
No other country in the world could with thee compare”

Honourable Members, I dare say no province can compare with KZN!

This is why we welcome the President's announcement in the SONA about the launch of a Tourism Equity Fund to stimulate transformation in tourism. This sector remains of prime importance to the province buoyed by the warm hospitality of our people, the beautiful climate and plentiful wildlife.

To maintain the attractiveness of the province as a tourist destination, the Department has made tremendous progress in building and maintaining tourism assets in the province. The development of Ngodini and Ndumo Border Caves at a cost of R15 million resulting in 400 job opportunities for the local communities is almost complete.



We are also pleased to note that Transnet has commenced the construction of the Cruise Terminal and this catalytic project is envisaged to spur tourism in KwaZulu-Natal and create more than 1000 job opportunities. This is a R220 million investment in the province.

EDTEA is also upgrading the Bhanga Nek Campsite with an investment of R20 million. This project will result in 10 permanent and 25 temporary jobs.

Plans are afoot to upgrade Nelson Mandela Capture Site with a budget of R12.5 million and 1000 job opportunities being created. Construction is starting this March. Development of tourism infrastructure and resorts, tourism marketing, attraction of major events will be the major focus areas of the department in the 2020/21 budget year and provision of a R48 million has been made towards these areas.

Tourism outlook

We have experienced a significant increase in domestic tourist arrivals in the first half of 2019 when compared to the same period of 2018, with a recorded 2 345 462 arrivals in 2019 against 1 300 560 arrivals in 2018. This is an 80% increase!

Another significant increase is tourist spend in the province which totalled R14.4-billion in the first half of 2019, a 37% increase.

On the international front, KwaZulu-Natal recorded an increase of 8%, from 408 460 in 2018 (Q1 & Q2) to 378 135 in 2019.

KSIA grew by 6.5% in 2019 compared to 2018 at 6.26 million passengers. Overall passenger numbers in December 2019 grew by 11.6% to just over 616 000 passengers. International passengers grew by 9% in December, and by 9.7% in 2019 when compared to 2018. The Route Development Committee (RDC), which TKZN co-chairs, works as a collective of public and private sector partners to drive greater arrivals at KSIA.

Business events to be hosted in 2020/2021 are expected to inject an estimated R1.2-billion into the local economy. These events include the World Football Summit this month, the Eco-health Conference in June, the World Maritime Day in October and the World Halaal Day in November.

Environmental Sustainability

EDTEA continues to play a pivotal role in protecting indigenous plants from invasive alien species. The department has cleared 120 000 hectares of land affected by invasive alien species and created 7,500 job opportunities.

A further 3 000 work opportunities were created through the Good Green Deeds programme. A provision of R100 million was made towards ecosystem management.

Climate change and resilience is an apex priority for EDTEA. In the medium term framework the department will work with the relevant stakeholders to draft a KZN Climate Change and Resilience Policy to better respond to environmental challenges.

Other interventions to boost economy

Some the interventions to boost the provincial economy in 2020/21 include:

- Aloe Processing (R4 million),
- Establishment of innovation centres and innovation support (uGu, Richards Bay, Amajuba, R9 million), Edendale Auto Hub (R20 million),
- Bio Ethanol Pilot (R5 million),
- Facilitating the entry of women into the renewable energies sectors through the manufacturing and installation of solar panels (R4.4 million), and
- Fish Processing Facilities (R9 million).

Public transport corridors connecting King Shaka International Airport with Durban and other critical nodes such as Pietermaritzburg, Richards Bay and Port Shepstone are under development. Phase 2 of the Dube Trade Port development is making good progress.

Other encouraging developments include:

- Wilmar Palm Oil Refinery valued at R 1.4 bn in Richards Bay
- Saudi Aramco Oil Refinery, also in Richards Bay valued at R 10 bn is in advanced planning
- Heineken intends to establish a plant next to the Dube Trade Port - the value of this investment is estimated at R6 billion.

Sugar industry

For a long time, our sugar industry has been on the brink of collapse due to depressed global prices. Government's commitment to finalise the Sugar Master Plan now demonstrates the resolve to ensure jobs and livelihoods relying on the sector are not disrupted.

We are extremely excited that our sugar industry will enjoy significant rejuvenation with the imminent implementation of a new regulatory framework around biofuels generally and ethanol in particular. This is a major game-changer.

Of course we still seek effective protection against cheap imports and dumping both in respect of the sugar and clothing industries.

There are clear signs of revival of our once vibrant clothing and textile sectors.

We have taken a firm and uncompromising stance against business groupings engaging in criminal conduct. We are undisputed champions of economic empowerment but within the context of a clear rules-based programme in compliance with our constitutional values.



• AGRICULTURE •

DEVELOPMENT



ON AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Madam Speaker, the provincial government has prioritised support for the agricultural sector. Through the KZN Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation (RASET) Programme, we are promoting the development of agricultural value chains through leveraging government buying power.

Through the programme of RASET for an example, each week women from Umkhanyakude supply iLembe Enterprise with 1000 crates of tomatoes.

Cannabis - the green rush

We are directing considerable effort towards the beneficiation of cannabis into various value-added products.

A feasibility study to identify and seize opportunities in the production of cannabis and downstream beneficiation for local people has already been completed and a Cannabis Investor Protocol has been developed and launched.

A dedicated and fully staffed Cannabis Unit has been established within the Moses Kotane Institute to assist emerging cultivators and entrepreneurs with infrastructure assistance, funding and licencing.

Multi-Planting Season Programme

In the current financial year, the Department of Agriculture has assisted farmers to plant 10 658 hectares for food security across the province.

The province has experienced inclement weather conditions, which resulted in the delayed rains and consequently the start of the planting season.

In his State of the Nation Address, President Ramaphosa noted the adverse impact of drought on the agricultural sector. We welcome the announcement that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will develop a Drought Mitigation Strategy that focuses on distributing drought resistant seeds for the planting programme and storage of fodder for livestock.

The provincial government has committed **R77million** for the implementation of the 2020/21 planting season programme. The MEC for DARD will provide additional details on the rollout of this strategy during her Budget Vote.

Production of Own Seeds, Seedlings and Fruit Trees

The sixth administration has taken a bold step to establish five mega-nurseries to produce seedlings and fruit trees.

This will address the skewed structure of the economy by ensuring that the historically disadvantaged individuals participate in the seed and seedling value chain. Provincial government has developed a plan that will ensure that farmers currently supplying the RASET market have sufficient seedlings and fruit trees to plant in order to satisfy the RASET order and other markets. This is intended to boost the township and rural economy.

A budget of **R30million** has been set-aside for the initial phase of agricultural infrastructure establishment, equipment and operations. Implementation will commence in the 2020/21 financial year and the programme will see employment of **290 agricultural graduates**.

Assessment of Land Reform Farms

The provincial government is concerned about the amount of land that is lying fallow in the province. We commissioned the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to conduct an assessment on Land Reform Farms. The report has been finalized and is awaiting tabling before the Provincial Executive Council before the end of March 2020.

The assessment has confirmed that a significant number of these farms are facing serious operational challenges and have been rendered dysfunctional. This has serious implications for food security and economic growth of the province. Mr Celani Xulu from Umlalazi Municipality wrote to me to say: "I think land restitution projects especially located in areas with high poverty rate need to be visited with a clear plan." The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development will provide further details on the provincial government's plan to put these farms back into production.



Commercialization of Goat Farming

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is developing a goat farming value chain strategy. This is to support primary production and promote the culture of business livestock production among rural black producers. The Department will continue to provide support in rolling out livestock auctions and use this Programme to commercialize goat production. This is part of creating awareness and promoting the value of goat meat amongst the rural poor, especially as a business enterprise.

Agri-Hubs

A concept for Agri-Hubs has been developed and we want to see its implementation in 2020/21 and beyond. These Agri-Hubs are intertwined with the AGRIPARK Model, Warehouses, Operation Vula through RASET and District Development Model (DDM). Each Agri-Hub will be strategically located in terms of economical zoning, clustered according to comparative and competitive advantage of commodities and PEMP identified poverty ward nodes.

Four Agri-Hubs will be established in the next three years, with the first to be built in 2020/21 financial year. The **R30million** for the establishment of the seeds, seedlings, and fruit trees also includes these Agri-Hubs.

Youth Empowerment

Madam Speaker, the issue of youth unemployment is a stark reality that is facing us, especially in an environment compounded by economic decline.

Today we announce a dedicated, comprehensive, youth empowerment programme called, “Phakama One Million, which will be implemented across all government departments, State Owned Enterprises and our social partners in the private sector. This initiative will offer job opportunities to ensure our youth is ready and can be absorbed easily by employers. Our target is for over 1million young people to benefit from this programme over the next five years.

The programme will be implemented through various programmes such as internships, learnerships, apprenticeship, in-service training etc. Its main purpose will be to transition our young people and women into mainstream job opportunities in both the public and private sectors. The Youth Directorate in the Office of the Premier will coordinate this programme and track progress on an annual basis. Kusakela manje sithi Phakama Mntomusha Phakama!



PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

KZN state-led infrastructure development contributes to the economy of the Province and provides much needed services. We have tasked Public Works to improve its internal operations and strengthen its systems in order to achieve its full potential of becoming the Implementer of Choice.

The Department must reduce reliance on private consultants and build the internal capacity to design and package projects. The turnaround time on maintenance of state buildings must be timeous and efficient.

We have directed the Department to serve as the Province's Infrastructure Nerve Centre that will coordinate all government infrastructure projects. This will give us clearer sense on the impact on poverty.

We note the progress in the establishment of the State Infrastructure Development Agency (SIDA) and urge the Department to bring the agency into operation.

The current model of infrastructure planning, development and implementation is fragmented within the Province limiting the residual benefits that could be realized.

The Strategic Infrastructure Development Agency (SIDA) will seek to restore this balance in the Province's core infrastructure focus by coordinating, integrating and implementing programmes in areas of public transport, social and economic infrastructure:

The public transport infrastructure has been identified as a critical input to achieving a compact province form through enabling transit-oriented development locating people, amenities and businesses along major mobility corridors.

Social infrastructure enables the transformation of marginalized communities through the provision of basic and linkage infrastructure that connects communities to economic activity areas while improving general living conditions.

Economic infrastructure facilitates mobility for trade, tourism and investment purposes, thus stimulating economic growth.

In support of KZN Government objectives and Radical Socio-Economic Transformation, the SIDA will be required to primarily achieve the following:

- **Facilitate** Private Sector Funding for Strategic Infrastructure Projects;
- **Transform** the construction, maintenance and management of the infrastructure sector in the province;
- Assist Government Departments with the Implementation of IDMS;
- Advance **innovation and technology** in the delivery of infrastructure;
- Develop structured methods for the coordination of sustainable **SMMs and Contractor Development** programmes;
- Develop and publish **Infrastructure Delivery Standards & Systems**;
- Improve the **capacity of the state** in the delivery of strategic infrastructure;
- Improve **stakeholder relations** within the infrastructure sector.

The SIDA will be a vehicle for the KZN Government with which the Provincial Infrastructure Master Plan can be implemented effectively.

We further expect Public Works to go back to basics by giving us safe, clean and functional state buildings.

In order to commence with the much anticipated Provincial Precinct, forty six pieces of excess provincial state land and three derelict buildings in eThekweni are being disposed to raise a significant part of the R3bn budget. The Precinct will be a showpiece infrastructure project housing most Departmental head offices and the Legislature. MEC Nkonyeni will give us more details in her budget speech.

Eyesizwe Contractor Development Programme is Public Works' flagship tool to advance radical socio-economic transformation and we acknowledge the Department for its efforts in developing small businesses through the programme. We are pleased to report that in the past year, the Department has empowered Women-owned companies with over R90m in contracts while Youth-owned enterprises laid claim to R47m.

Public Works is now in full swing responsible for EPWP that serves as a valuable safety net to give some of our most vulnerable citizens access to the dignity of work. Over the past year the Province as created 135 163 work opportunities, more than the original target.





• TRANSPORT •

AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

ON TRANSPORT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Infrastructure Delivery

The new approach to infrastructure delivery places focus on fewer but strategic and catalytic infrastructure rather than too many small infrastructures build interventions. The Department of Transport applies a delicate balance between maintenance and construction of new projects.

In the 2020/2021 financial year R8bn will be invested in infrastructure development and maintenance.

Defaulting contractors are a source of concern. Currently, there are about 28 projects where the Department has been forced to suspend activities due to non-performance by the contractor. In the next few months, we are going to call the Provincial Contractor Indaba to engage with the contractors to understand what the causal factors to such non-performance are.

The department continues to support the province with the implementation of the National Infrastructure Plan's Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs), in particular SIP 2 which is the Durban-Free State-Gauteng logistics and industrial corridor.

This main arterial corridor strengthens and serves as a catalyst for the logistics and transport corridor between SA's main industrial hubs.

Our province will ensure consolidation and optimisation of our key programmes such as Zibambele and Vukuzakhe which provide employment opportunities for targeted groups. Since 2010, some 40 000 Zibambele contractors have been regularly engaged to maintain some 28 000km of rural roads with a labour intensity of 91.96%.

Bridges and Enabling Access to Education

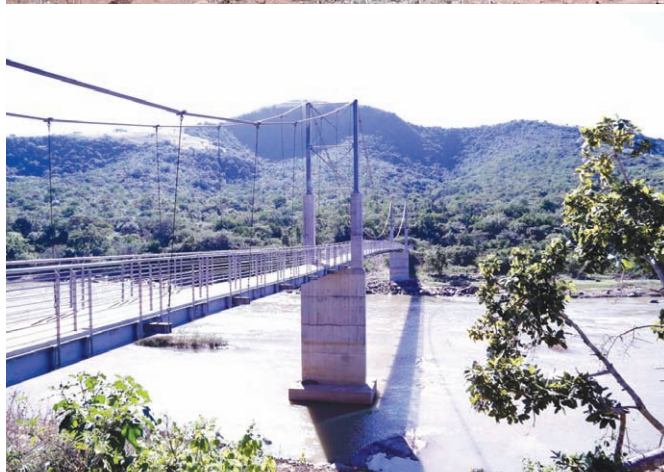
Owing to the topography of the province, there is a dire need to connect and provide safe crossings, mainly to rural learners and communities.

In the financial year 2020/21, Transport is planning new 7 vehicular bridges and 12 bailey bridges. The Department also plans to upgrade 60 kilometres of gravel to tar.

Some of the key capital projects to be constructed or continued in a phased approach in this financial year, include the following:

- P296 (upgrade) located in Amajuba District- the project will be 5 kilometres at a value of R68 million.
- D985 (upgrade), located under eThekweni metro, at a value of R50 million.
- P740 (Upgrade), located under eThekweni Metro, at a value of R54 million
- P318 (upgrade), located under Harry Gwala District, the project will be 7.4 kilometres, at a value of R244 million.
- P73 (upgrade), located under Harry Gwala District, the project will be 3 kilometres, at a value of R39 million.

- P714 (upgrade), located under iLembe District, output of 10 kilometres, at a value of R285 million.
- P700 (upgrade), located in King Cetshwayo, output of 4,5 kilometres, at a total value of R117 million.
- Gumatane/ uMzimkhulu river bridge, linking uMzumbe and uMuziwabantu, at a value of R163 million.
- P278 (upgrade), located under uMgungundlovu District, output of 11,5 kilometres, at a value of R190 million.
- D1841 (upgrade), located under uMkhanyakude District, output of 6.26 kilometres, at a value of R109 million.
- P263 (upgrade), located under uThukela District, output is 4 kilometres, at a value of R91 million.
- P52-3 (upgrade), located in Zululand, with an output of 3,3 kilometres, at a value of R56 million.



Sanral Projects

- Last year we announced a major catalytic project by the South African National Road Agency Pty (LTD), for the N3/N2 upgrade project at an estimated value of R35bn upon completion. We can now report that by the end of March 2020, the first phase at the value of R9 billion will be awarded and the first phase will be ready to start. By the end of the financial year 2020/2021, all phases of this project will have been awarded.
- Hlanga Lomhlabathi, we are happy to report that Sanral, working jointly with the Department of Transport are now engaged in a stakeholder consultation process to build Isandlwana Heritage Project. This project will increase the tourism opportunity and ultimately drive economic development.
- The N2 KwaDukuza project which was suspended over two years ago due to court challenges between the contractor and Sanral, will now resume. This will end the outcry on the future of this project as there is one lane that has been operational. The awarding has been finalized and the project will be paired with the construction of P709, which is linking N2 and eMacambini in Mandeni.



Public Transport

Government is moving with speed in transforming the subsidized bus industry. The industry is currently in the hands of few families and does not reflect the demographics of the province. Already 12 contracts have been transformed and are now operated by African contractors. This will expand to mainstream contracts. Moving forward, this work will take the approach of an open bidding process which will be guided by the principles of iGula. Whilst work has started in King Cetshwayo, this financial year there will be focus in uMgungundlovu, Amajuba, iLembe and Zululand.

- The taxi industry is a vital lifeline of our transport system but it is unfortunately plagued by constant instability. This is in spite of numerous interventions by government, including expanding the offices in the issuing of Operating Licenses and effective peace building interventions by the Provincial Regulatory Entity.
- The areas which are currently engulfed by conflict and receiving attention include: Ladysmith, Nquthu/Nondweni, Dolphin Coast, Mlazi West/MNR and Ngonyameni, Nongoma, Pietermaritzburg, Ngwelezane, Estcourt, Bhamshela.
- The Provincial Regulatory Entity administrates licensing of public transport operations (taxis, buses, meter-taxis and tour operators). PRE offices are in Pietermaritzburg, Ladysmith, Empangeni and Port Shepstone. Plans to open a new PRE in eThekweni are at an advanced stage. A total of 18 544 licenses have been processed to date as part of stabilizing the industry and promoting regulations.

We continue to appeal to all stakeholders to comply with regulations and work together towards building a thriving and peaceful industry.

Road Safety

The province has managed to reduce fatalities by 5% in the last festive season period. This is an important foundation, but sadly we still lead the country with road fatalities. The loss of 354 lives during the festive season must jolt us to change our behaviour and conduct on the road. We appeal for courtesy and adherence to the law by all road users, including pedestrians.

KZN is ready for the implementation of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offenders (Aarto). We believe that this legislation will enforce punitive measures against repeat offenders on the road.



Economic Transformation in the Transport Industry

iGula remains a “game changer” in driving transformation in the transportation sector. Since our last SOPA, the following progress has been made:

- Enforcement of minimum of 35% sub-contracting in all major infrastructure projects.
- Policy on the Contractor Development has been finalized
- Fleet Management feasibility study has been completed to inform modernisation and revitalisation of the **government garage**.
- Finalisation of the Materials Sourcing Strategy.

Transport and Job Creation

Transport will create 63 000 work opportunities through the EPWP in the financial year 2020/2021. This includes 4000 newly-recruited youth under the Vukayibambe Road Maintenance Programme. Working with the Office of the Premier, Transport has recruited 850 young people who will be part of the National Youth Service. In the financial year 2020/2021 the Department will increase its intake for the internship programme to 160 young people.

Key programmes for 2020/2021

- **Kerb Yards** - the establishment of kerb yards in 2020/21 is one of the interventions that will support job creation through the development of suppliers who will manufacture various precast concrete units to be used in road construction. The Department plans to implement this programme provincially with the first kerb yard to be established in Jozini.
- **New jersey barriers** - As part of fighting cross border crime, the Department is constructing new jersey barriers in the boarder of South Africa and Mozambique. In line with iGula, the jersey barriers are manufactured locally, using local labour.
- **DoT Partnership with SANDF** - the Department has signed a MoU with the South African National Defence to utilize their engineering skills, mainly in the construction of safe crossing structures in communities adjacent to flood-prone and crocodile-infested rivers, including eight bailey bridges in 2020/2021. This will create easy access to schools and communities will be able to reach important amenities such as clinics, public transport facilities and shopping centres. This project will see the construction of 12 new bridges, mainly in rural communities. The estimated value for this partnership is R115 million.



EDUCATION

AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Honorable Members,

Education and skills acquisition remain the best instrument to achieve racial, gender, and income equality.

We risk not owning the future as KZN if we neglect the education and skilling of our people.

Those who are burning schools and universities are burning our collective future.

Just like those who burn shops and trucks, are risking the livelihoods of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Educators who abuse learners contribute to our problems and do not deserve to be in the system.

To reclaim the future, we must close ranks and fight all those who people are squandering our democratic gains and destroying the future of our children.

On Friday, 21 February, we convened a meeting with all stakeholders at UKZN, including student formations to calm the unrest. MEC Mshengu, has been assigned the task to work with all concerned to find a lasting solution to the impasse. We welcome his efforts.

We also call on the business community to a contribution to help ease the plight of students who need such relief.

We applaud the ANC government for continuously making education an investment priority. Just looking at tertiary education alone, we know from the Department of Higher Education that funding to students through NSFAS massively increased from R5.9 billion in 2014/15 to the current levels of R34.5 billion.

The Office of the Premier funded a total of 246 students to the tune of R23 million. In 2020 we have set aside another R24 million rand to continue with this support to the most needy students from our province.

We urge our learners not to squander these precious opportunities.

We must continue to produce the millions of artisanal, technical and professional skills which the NDP has identified as being in demand in our economy.

We applaud President Ramaphosa's announcement in the State of the Nation Address that this year, nine new TVET College Campuses will be built, and that five of these will be constructed here in KZN in Umzimkhulu, Greytown, Msinga, Nongoma and KwaGqikazi.

We are encouraged and proud about the remarkable achievement of 81.3% in the matric results last year. This was a product of hard work, discipline, determination, collaboration, and effective implementation of key support interventions. The interventions included:

- Enforcing and monitoring the implementation of the Academic Improvement Plan and the District Support programme.
- District Mathematics Support Programme targeting both the teachers and learners.
- Teacher Orientation workshops aimed at enhancing effectiveness in teaching.
- Support to underperforming schools by Head Office and District Officials.
- Radio lessons on various radio stations

This is not the time to relent or be complacent. We must use the recent success as a springboard from which we prepare for another improvement in the matric results.



INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND 4IR

We are rolling out e-learning solutions to share scarce resources, expand curricula, enhance education delivery, and improve outcomes. In August last year, the province launched the e-Learning infrastructure and programme at eMadungeni Primary School in the Harry Gwala District. Through such interventions, learners from the deepest of our rural areas are able to benefit from the wisdom of some of the best teachers who are often located in better performing urban schools.

The recently launched mobile Human Resources Application (HR App) is a smart innovation designed to help the Department fill teacher vacancies and to link up unemployed teachers with employment opportunities in the education sector.

SAFETY IN SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITIES

Many schools in the province of KwaZulu-Natal continue to be soft targets for criminals. Incidents of school violence, vandalism, theft and bullying remains a key challenge. It is also concerning to see criminals attacking and even murdering security guards at some of our schools.

The education and safety of our children and infrastructure is a societal issue requiring collective action. Criminals who harm the future of our children live in our homes and some are our neighbours.



In this regard, we applaud the community of Umlazi who upon learning about the break-in and theft of school assets like computers at Ntwela Primary School in Umlazi took it upon themselves to recover the stolen assets and identify the criminals.

We also condemn in the strongest terms the burning of schools and the theft of public assets. No matter what the grievances, the use of violence, intimidation, and destruction of infrastructure must be condemned by all in the strongest terms possible.

To deal with challenge of School Safety, the Executive Council approved a multi-pronged Schools Safety Strategy which is anchored on:

- Deployment of Community Based Volunteers to our schools. These volunteers receive training from the Department of Safety and Community Liaison.
- Fencing of all our schools.
- Establishment of Safety School Committees.
- Regular patrols of schools by the police.

A few weeks ago, the Department of Education re-launched the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign in Sibusisiwe Hall, Mandeni to mobilise communities to play a meaningful role in education and eliminate social ills at schools.

LEARNER TRANSPORT

No less than 2.8 million learners in South Africa are in KZN. R206 million for learner transport was set aside for 2019. The province has the largest number of rural schools and learners in the country and our current allocation is still unable to cover all learners.

Transport, working with Education, will continue to provide learner transport services. The service is currently benefiting more than 59 000 learners who travel more than 3km to school. Learners in more than 350 schools benefit from this programme. In addition, government will distribute 2400 Shovakalula bicycles.

We continue to support learners with special needs. The procurement of 15 buses last year for various special needs schools is one achievement we are proud of as the people of KZN.



HEALTH
AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE OF KZN

THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE OF KZN

Madam Speaker, we know development and health are closely intertwined. In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals on health, this government is fully committed to quality and affordable healthcare for all.

Since the inauguration of the 6th Administration, the Department of Health has been consolidating previous successes, attending to weaknesses in the system and improving overall efficiency, service delivery outcomes, and wellness of our people.

Spearheading e-health

The department is edging closer to the goal of migrating from the old and inefficient paper-based filing and data-management system to a modern, dynamic and infinitely convenient sphere of e-health.

The new e-health system is being piloted at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital, as well as the Madadeni Hospital.

The new e-health system will reduce patient waiting times, and address the issue of missing and damaged patient files, while enabling the Department to defend itself against medico-legal claims.

Improved HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention

We have already made significant inroads in the fight against HIV/AIDS and under-age pregnancies in the province. The Department of Health is implementing a brand new HIV/AIDS awareness programme. To achieve an HIV/AIDS-free generation, awareness and prevention needs to be kept alive, with fresh, engaging and relevant messages directed at the public.

Broadening access to HIV/AIDS treatment

We welcome the progress in making anti-retroviral treatment accessible to all those who need it. Three districts in KwaZulu-Natal, namely Ugu, uMkhanyakude and uMzinyathi, have become the first in the country to meet the ambitious UNAIDS 90-90-90 target to help end the AIDS pandemic.

The UNAIDS goals are that by 2020, 90% of HIV infected people should know their status; 90% of those who know their status should start anti-retroviral therapy and 90% of those on treatment should be virally suppressed.

Amajuba, King Cetshwayo, uMgungundlovu, uThukela, Zululand and eThekweni are expected to follow suit by March 2020. Harry Gwala and Ilembe will be supported to achieve epidemic control by December 2020.

Supporting LGBTQI community in accessing healthcare

Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) community continue to face obstacles when it comes to accessing healthcare. They face frequent prejudice, homophobia and violence. They are also disadvantaged by the lack of assistive sexual reproductive health services.

The Department of Health has introduced a ground-breaking programme known as Fabulous About Health to address these challenges.

Addressing negative staff attitudes

We condemn the ill-treatment and disregard for the rights of patients and their families by a minority of healthcare workers. In response to instances of unprofessional conduct in the healthcare system, the Department of Health is running workshops in all districts to remind doctors, nurses, and other staff of the need to treat patients with compassion.

Forced patient sterilisation

We are disturbed by the recent findings by the Gender Commission into the allegations of forced sterilisation of HIV patients in the health sector. Sterilisation without informed consent is a human rights violation. The Department of Health will cooperate with Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the South African Nursing Council (SANC) which are the two organisations mandated by the Gender Commission to look further into this matter.

Access to senior managers

In line with the Batho Pele (People First) principles, government publicises the names and contact details of all hospital CEOs, district directors and district managers of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Forensic Pathology Services (FPS).

Coronavirus update

We wish to assure the people of KwaZulu-Natal that government is ready to deal effectively with a potential coronavirus threat. We have placed on alert the following hospitals: Greys, Addington, Ngwelezane, and Manguzi.

Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital

We are only months away from opening the R2.8-billion, state-of-the-art Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital. Soon the people of KwaZulu-Natal, particularly in the Inanda, Ntuzuma KwaMashu area, will benefit from this brand new facility.



Provincial Water Master Plan

As committed in the previous State of the Province Address, the issue of basic service delivery, especially water, is the top priority for this administration. Water is critical for human life as well as economic growth. We are committed to finding solutions to our water challenges. In response to this challenge, we convened a special Extended Executive Council, which included all key players in the water sector, to find solutions to the water-related challenges.

To date, we have established the Water Experts Task Team, chaired by the MEC for Cogta. Since November a dedicated Provincial Crack Team, made up of Cogta and Provincial Treasury, has been convening weekly to monitor the entire water master planning, prioritisation and implementation of projects implemented by KZN.

We have developed a Water Intervention Plan to address water challenges in hotspot areas within the next 18 months. R84-million has already been transferred to municipalities to implement “quick-win” interventions. Water-stressed districts that will benefit from this project include Ugu, uThukela, uMzinyathi, Amajuba, Zululand, uMkhanyakude and Harry Gwala.

Key projects here include Bergville water supply upgrades, Skhemelele water supply, uMthavuna bulk electricity to facilitate water provision, Moyeni Zwelisha water supply scheme, Kokstad and Underberg upgrades of the main pipelines. A total of 251 boreholes will be drilled.

I am sure this news will excite Mhlengi Dube of Okhahlamba municipality, Ward 7, who advised the Premier as follows: “Premier, please address the issue of water shortages in Bergville. We have a big dam around here which supplies other provinces”. The MEC for Cogta and the MEC champion of uThukela will visit the area to see for themselves what Mhlengi is talking about.

As a long-term solution, we will by June 2020 conclude the Provincial Water Master Plan which will outline sustainable interventions to achieve universal access to water in our province. We have identified dysfunctional infrastructure and deficiencies in operation and maintenance. Our findings will inform remedial action plans and determine the cost of implementing the Master Plan.

Basic services

Since last year's State of the Province Address, government has spent significant resources on tackling poverty, building houses for the poor, electrifying houses, providing water to millions of additional households, improving education and health.

Most poor households now get free water and electricity, sanitation and refuse removal, RDP houses or land, free education and health. Approximately 70% of learners in government schools are in no fee schools and most of their learners get a meal a day at school.

The percentage of people enjoying access to potable drinking water in our province is now at 85.44%. Sanitation has improved to 88.55%, for VIP level and above. No less than 89% of our people now have access to electricity. We are working hard to restore the dignity of our people!

Implementation of District Development Model

For government to effectively deliver services, local government must function optimally. It is against this background that government has introduced the District Development Model - One Plan, One Budget approach.

This Model constitutes a new way of doing things where the three spheres of government and development partners in the private sector plan, budget and implement together all developmental programmes with the district at the core of the process. President Ramaphosa launched the Model last October in eThekweni.

For the first time we will have one plan and one budget with only the division of labour and a shared focus on implementation. The districts are going to be major impact zones and a key yardstick to measure the progress we are making as a country in changing the lives of our people.

To date, district profiles for all 10 KZN districts have been drafted by Cogta and a Provincial Task Team, headquartered at the Office of the Premier, has been established to lead the alignment and integration process with the existing Operation Sukuma Sakhe.

All MECs who are champions in districts will drive this campaign. The upcoming Khawuleza Week will ensure that MECs spend at least a week in their respective districts institutionalising this new way of doing things.

Progress on the State of Local Government in KZN

In June 2019 Cogta conducted a wide-ranging Assessment of the State of Local Government in KZN. This was the most comprehensive exercise of its kind focusing on the state of municipal governance, finances and service delivery. The report on the State of Local Government in KZN has thus been a real game changer in the province with 54 Municipal Support Plans developed and adopted by municipalities.

The process has enabled us to attend to the critical challenges that are crippling the performance of our municipalities such as dysfunctional municipal Excos, MPACs, vacancies, poor revenue collection, debt owed to Eskom and specific service delivery issues in municipalities.

2021 Local Government Elections

We are already preparing for the upcoming Local Government Elections scheduled for 2021. While the elections are organised by the IEC, our role as government is to create an enabling environment for free and elections.

Managing disasters

Madam Speaker, the harsh realities of climate change are upon us!

The frequency and intensity of hazards, such as floods, thunderstorms cyclonic wind and even tornadoes in our province is alarming. And their impact is devastating. In 2019/2020 as many as 208 people lost their lives as a result of disasters in addition to 500 injuries

During the same period, the province recorded a total of 2624 disaster- related incidents, mainly due to inclement weather conditions and veld fires. Consequently, 25 812 households were affected and damages to public infrastructure, such as roads, schools and community halls, amounted to some R3-billion.

We have to mitigate the effects whilst also adapting to the reality. To this end, we must ensure that all Disaster Management Centres must be properly resourced and capacitated.

We also take this opportunity to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr Jonty Ndlanzi who headed the Provincial Disaster Management Centre with distinction and who was laid to rest last Saturday.



Human Settlements

The flagship Vulindlela housing project in Msunduzi which started in 2011 and consists of 25 000 housing units is nearing completion at the cost of R2.5-billion. This project has resulted in employment of 1713 workers during construction targeting the poor, women-headed households and persons with disabilities.

This bar-raising project is spread over nine municipal wards and involves 24,455ha of land. At least 136 615 residents will benefit, tangible proof of government's commitment to the creation of self - sustainable and thriving human settlements.

The project has left real skills in the community with individuals learning block manufacturing skills and fitting doors and windows. Each ward has a cooperative that undertakes the construction of slabs, wall plates and roof completions.

We are also pleased to report that the human settlements long term catalytic projects have progressed and the achievements to be noted are as follows:

- Cornubia (28,000 units):
- eThekweni Inner City: (8,387) social/rental/GAP housing):
- KwaMashu Bridge City Urban Hub: 27,875 units:
- uMlazi Urban Regeneration: 12,000 units:
- eThekweni Amaoti Greater Housing Project: 20,000 units:
- Newcastle: Johnston Blaaubosch Cavan(JBC) : Estimated 10,018 units
- KwaDukuza: Hyde Park: Estimated 4,600 units
- Empangeni (10,000 houses)

Spatial integration, sustainable human settlements and the alleviation of asset poverty are key to creating a united province, socio-economic renewal and nation building.

The following six Priority Development Areas have been gazetted for development. Work has already commenced in these areas:

- eThekweni Inner City Node;
- uMlazi:
- uMhlanga/Cornubia/aMaoti/KwaMashu
- Ballito/Shakaskraal;
- Empangeni; and
- Edendale

By March 2021, the following will be achieved in both Priority Development Areas and rural areas:

- 13 130 fully subsidised housing units will be provided to qualifying households throughout the province;
- 5138 sites will be serviced in greenfield projects;
- 6 of the 45 Transit camps remaining in eThekweni will be eradicated;
- 16 informal settlements in KZN will be upgraded for Stage 3 implementation ;
- 200 social/rental housing units will be completed;
- 400 community residential housing units will be delivered; and
- 330 Finance-Linked Income Subsidy Programme opportunities will be created.
- 62 Military Veterans' houses will be delivered now utilising both Military Veterans and private contractors.

To date we have issued approximately 40 000 title deeds. The department has also received additional funding of R98 million for 2019/2020. Due to our provinces outstanding performance on housing delivery an additional R 842 377m has been allocated since 2014.

We are ensuring that human settlements projects utilise local labour and materials supplied by SMMEs. This is our intervention to support rural and township economies.

In line with Radical Socio-Economic Transformation 53 black-owned companies now undertake planning and construction work in the department.

The department has also developed an Incubation Programme focusing on emerging black-owned businesses within the CIDB grade 1 - 4. In this financial year, 100 companies will be in incubation.

Building an ethical, capable developmental state

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

A more efficient, capacitated and capable state is a priority if we are to address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. This requires well run and effectively coordinated state institutions staffed by skilled public servants who are committed to the public good and capable of delivering consistently high-quality services for all South Africans.

This requires continuous development of the skills of all civil servants in order to improve the quality of output by the state.

The first eight months of the 6th Administration have been dedicated to enhancing the capacity of the state and its machinery for radical implementation - the Khawuleza way of doing things.

We have re-engineered the provincial government. Together, we are creating our common future.

We can confirm that most departmental organograms are nearing final approval and concurrence by DPSA. Key strategic positions have been filled. Implementation remains an Achilles' heel of government.

We vigorously apply consequence management. To this effect, a total number of ... officials have been either suspended, expelled or are undergoing disciplinary process owing to poor performance, unethical conduct, fraud or corruption. The MECs in the governance and administration cluster will expand with more details on this when they brief the citizens on this front.

Operation Clean Audit

Madam Speaker, we are not proud of the 2019/2020 audit outcomes for the province of KwaZulu-Natal. This is not the place we want to occupy. We do not want to be synonymous with irregular, wasteful and fruitless expenditure.

The Auditor General is clear that we are regressing as a province. We need to reverse this trend. The areas of qualification for each department have been identified. The amount and reasons for irregular expenditure in each department have been spelt out.

As part of the Audit Improvement Plan, working together with Provincial Treasury, we are convening an induction workshop for Executive Authorities and Accounting Officers on planning, monitoring and evaluation areas that affect audit performance.

The newly establishment Provincial Audit Readiness Oversight Committee will coordinate and monitor all audit improvement initiatives, and report regularly to the Executive. A Consequence Management Framework will also be in place, applicable to all departments by the end of March 2020

We want to see immediate results. A radical turnaround in audit outcomes is in the best interest of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Fighting crime and GBV

Social development

Social cohesion and nation building

The year 2019 marked the centenary year of the birth of Prof Nyembezi. The Department of Arts and Culture hosted a Literature Exhibition, and International Translation Day on 28 November 2019, Port Shepstone in honour of Prof Nyembezi and Prof Mazisi Kunene.

Emerging writers and authors

The Department of Arts and Culture will this year develop a comprehensive programme to assist emerging book writers and authors to register and market their literary work. The department will create platforms for book writers to write books about communities and localities where they reside - "One township, one book."

King Shaka statue

Preservation of KZN Heritage must be ensured. The priority for the Department of Arts and Culture will be the erection of the King Shaka statue in the 2020/2021 financial year. This will be done after consultation with His Majesty The King.

Mood of the province

We acknowledge that we have not put as much energy into the work of the KZN Provincial Council on Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration as we had intended. The fissures and fractures in our province are becoming increasingly visible with extreme violence especially domestic and gender based violence, racial and social discord and substance abuse among other social ills. In mobilising participation in the Council we brought different sectors in society together. It is imperative that we work to generate a positive spirit, Ubuntu and reaching out to each other. We are committed to a sitting of the Council within the next few months.

The Provincial Government will roll out a community-based programme under the direction of Arts and Culture that is intended to change the mood in the province. Each week must occupy young people with creative and innovative activities that seek to uplift them and change their outlook in communities and society at large from April 2020 to March 2021.

Conclusion

Madam Speaker, our State of the Province Address coincides with Miriam Makeba's birthday who would have turned 88 today.

She was fondly known as Mama Africa, the Empress of African Song, and described as “songbird who changed the world.”

May we draw inspiration from her rendition of Jolinkomo, an African battle song, which gave courage to warriors when they went to war in defence of their ancestral land, cattle and heritage!

Mama Africa was a revolutionary and a pan-Africanist who used her singing talent and international fame to fight the evils of apartheid and gender discrimination.

Reflecting on how she survived decades of agonising exile, she wrote in her 1988 autobiography, **Makeba: My Story** that:

“I look at an ant and I see myself: a native South African, endowed by nature with a strength much greater than my size so I might cope with a racism that crushes my spirit. I look at a bird and I see myself: a native South African, soaring above the injustices of apartheid on the wings of pride, the pride of a beautiful people.”

Like Miriam Makeba, we must refuse to let anything crush our spirit on our journey to our common future.

On her return from exile, Mama Africa was gravely concerned about the slow pace of transformation. But she was cautious not descend into cynicism and despondency. It was never in her character to be an arm chair critic.

Without much resources of her own, she started shelters for young girls as she was worried about their fate. She said in an interview before her untimely death in November 2008:

“I just wish that people can be soldiers. We can all be soldiers, soldiers not to fight against each other but to fight against poverty, illnesses, disease, and greed, and all the ills of the world, you know just be an army for all goodness.”

Today, our province needs precisely a disciplined army of good soldiers, as envisaged by Mama Africa, who are drawn from all our citizens and instilled with the bravery of the traditional warrior in Jolinkomo to win against the enemy of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Let us dare and create the future as Joseph Shabalala, and Miriam Makeba did. Ladysmith Black Mambazo was right to say: ***“Our story began a long time ago... We have seen the country change... Every day there is something new, something world-class... The future is bright here, in eMzansi...”***

Let us create our common future, together!

I thank you!



MR SIHLE ZIKALALA
PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL

KWAZULU-NATAL

SOPA

STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

2020



**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**

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premier

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