

ADDRESS BY PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE DURING THE TAKING THE PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE HELD AT UGU SPORT AND LEISURE ON 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Programme Directors: Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP **Hon. S. Lucas** and KZN Legislature Chair of Chairs **Hon. Mavimbela**

Chairperson of the NCOP **Hon. A.S. Masondo**;

Speaker of the KZN Legislature **Hon. N.N Boyce**;

Minister of Water and Sanitation: **Mr S. Mchunu**;

Minister of COGTA: **Dr N. Dlamini-Zuma**;

Provincial Executive Council Members Present;

Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders **Inkosi R.S Shinga**;

Chief Whip of the NCOP **Hon. S.J. Mohai**;

KZN Provincial SALGA Deputy Chairperson **Cllr. Gumede**

Mayor of uGu District **Cllr. P. Mthiyane**;

Honourable Members;

Mayors Present

All Cllrs Present

All senior officials led by the DG of the Province **Dr. N.O. Mkhize**

The religious sector

Captains of industries and stakeholders;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning !

Introduction and Welcome

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Speaker and all members of the National Council of Provinces and the KZN Legislature for bringing the Taking Parliament to the People to this wonderful district of UGU.

UGU is known nationally and on the continent as one of the most popular holiday destinations where each Easter and Festive Season, thousands of visitors have for years tasted the tourism attractions of the South Coast and KwaZulu-Natal.

The presence of Members of the NCOP and the KZN Legislature at this time here in UGU, places a timely focus on the district and is an indication that indeed the holiday season here in the South Coast has already started.

As indicated earlier, this Programme of Taking Parliament to the People will culminate in an Annual Address by the President of the Republic His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa on 18 November under the theme “*Building an agile state, capabilities to improve service delivery outcomes*”.

Programme directors allow me on behalf of provincial government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal to take this opportunity to welcome Honourable Members of the NCOP some of whom

have travelled from far and wide to be with us over the next couple of days.

We are indeed honoured to have you all in this part of our province.

By the same token, I wish to welcome all Hon. Members of the KZN Legislature, Mayors and Councillors, and our special guests the people of UGU and surroundings to this gathering.

Hon. Speaker the concept of taking the Legislature to the People in South Africa flows from social contract derived from one of the fundamental documents of the ANC the Freedom Charter, whose preamble is that *“South Africa belongs to all who live in it”* accompanied by the injunction that *“the people shall govern”*.

This essence was transferred to our country’s Constitution which we adopted in 1996 which declares

boldly, that “we the people of South Africa, recognise the injustices of our past; Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

This Constitution calls on us to work hard to:

“Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;

Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.”

Calling on the community to take part in their development

As we gather here in the south of UGU over the coming days we will hear from the community not only about the challenges but also the suggested solutions. When Parliament comes to the people it is not like Father Christmas to deliver bags of gifts to the community.

We also want to engage, and through consultation listen to the solutions from the community.

Throughout the district, one of the greatest challenges is crime which is very high, mainly due to prevalent economic and social factors which include poverty and unemployment. This is accompanied by drug abuse amongst the youth and related social ills.

The police also face challenges of vehicle shortage, lack of equipment with toxicology reports sometimes taking years to be finalised. Many police stations even have water and electricity challenges.

MSUNDUZI FLOODS UPDATE

It is in this context of caring for all our citizens that Hon. Speaker, on the 09th of November 2022, we received the news that the Msunduzi Local

Municipality had been affected by heavy rains which resulted in flooding at around 16h00.

Governments first responder teams were despatched, and assessments of the damage was conducted in the areas of Ward 11 (Sinathing, Nhlazatshe), Ward 16 (KwaPata, Mabulala), Ward 17 (Imbali), Ward 21 (Dambuza), Ward 22 and Ward 23 (Peacevale, Ashdown).

We can report that there were seventy-eight (78) people affected, comprising of fifty-three (53) adults and twenty-five (25) children. It was further reported that there were thirty (30) families affected wherein nineteen (19) families were left homeless and they were sheltered in a Mosque area in ward 23 (Peacevale).

Fortunately, there were no fatalities and injuries reported.

Hon Speaker, it should be noted that most parts of the municipality suffered severe damage ranging from households, electrical infrastructure, storm water drainage, roadways and bridges. The heavy rains experienced on the 9th of November 2022 increased the normal flow of the Msunduzi River which caused the levels of the river to rise above normal. The overflow caused extensive damage to all houses that were situated on the banks of the river.

The municipality provided emergency relief to affected households and government continues to

work closely with affected families to provide psycho-social support.

We wish to also thank our Social partners such as Red Cross and the Al-Imdaad Foundation who have provided the necessary support to the displaced.

Hon Speaker, this recent flooding comes as the province is recovering from the April floods which took away 440 lives and caused massive infrastructure in our province. We are still recovering from the April Floods and we are pulling every resource together to ensure that as soon as possible all the affected are placed in decent accommodation while permanent residence is being sourced.

The recent flooding illustrates the continuing threat of climate change-induced weather in our province, and the challenges we will face as we deal with what is an unfolding global crisis.

uGu District has had its fair share of challenges one of which is the shortage of water. The water shortage and prolonged electricity outages are some of the issues which have seen the district being plagued by community protests which disrupt the provision of basic services. The issue of water shortages is being urgently attended to by the provincial and national government and interventions are in already in place to mitigate the problem.

Further detailed updates of the water interventions will be presented later during the week at the Taking Parliament to the People.

As we present the water solutions our communities must recognise that it takes time to build new dams and to find permanent solutions to problems of water. We must also recognise that South Africa is a water scarce country with the situation now being worsened by climate change.

We wish therefore to urge the community to continue to work together with us to solve these problems and not to vandalise the very infrastructure that we are

providing. At the same time, we also plead with the citizens of uGu District especially business to pay for basic services such as water and electricity, and to refrain from vandalising infrastructure and embarking on illegal connections as these acts derail and disrupt the delivery of services to the community.

Last month we launched the 2022 KZN Multi-planting Season in uMziwabantu here in UGU and already the change in weather has become a new reality even in agriculture.

The planting season programme has a potential to create 500 job opportunities through various services including but not limited to tractor operators, crop management and harvesting services, etc.

The programme further provides opportunities to SMMEs through the provision of mechanization services.

The implementation of the programme is envisaged to reach approximately 10209 beneficiaries across the province in 2022. The majority of the beneficiaries comprises almost 65% of female beneficiaries represented by approximately 6644 people. Furthermore, approximately 962 youth and 84 disabled people involved in agriculture will also benefit from the support provided. A total budget of R55 524 million has been made available for 2022/23 Multi-Planting Season Programme to accommodate only the mechanisation services excluding two mechanization activities, namely first and second spraying.

In the 2022/23 Financial Year, the Department of Agriculture has assisted farmers to cultivate 22 310 hectares in the 11 municipal districts. A total of 2 000 hectares will be planted in uGu District during this multi-planting season.

The multi-planting season in uGu District has created job opportunities to 800 people: comprising of 650 females, 150 males, 50 young people and 10 people living with disabilities.

Marching towards a digital world

Hon. Speaker a few days ago on the 06 of November we addressed a gathering hosted by the

Department of Public Service Administration looking at how far we have gone since we adopted the National Development Plan in improving the capacity of the state.

In 2011 the province of KwaZulu-Natal conducted the first detailed analysis of the NDP implementation in KwaZulu-Natal was undertaken in 2011, under the guidance of the newly appointed Provincial Planning Commission.

One of the key findings of our review was that on a quantitative basis, education and training outputs have improved in KZN over the past 10 years. One of the factors we now recognise is that our learners are falling down the international benchmarks when it comes to maths and science and Information Communication Technology.

This is one of the factors that explains why many of our school leavers and graduates are struggling to find work especially as the world adopts the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In this regard recently we started addressing this issue vigorously with the launch of the SMART Province which will see the roll out of the digital economy and 4IR skills and all its attendant technologies.

Last month the province launched the first Mobile Digital Analytics Skills Lab at Orient Heights in Pietermaritzburg. With this launch our learners are taking a giant leap to be part of new possibilities offered by digital technology.

This is part of the Connected Smart Province Project which will see especially young people being trained in various skills linked to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Youth will take advantage of this digital economy, working on Robotics, Drone Technology, Mechatronics and other technologies being experienced today.

As we announced, we intend to expose our learners from a young age Space Technology, Internet of Things, Data Analytics, Multimedia Production I and 4D Technology.

Already 20 young people are undergoing training in Digital Skills and Drone technology that will be used in a number of sectors including in smart technology and in intelligent transport systems to monitor and recover accidents and save lives.

Similar labs will be launched in the rest of the province, district by district.

We also want to use 4IR in enhancing policing and the fight against crime with drones being used to monitor high crime zones and capturing footage of criminal activity and also disaster-stricken areas.

Police will be able to deploy Smart Technology in facial recognition and to monitor crime scenes without necessarily placing themselves in the line of danger.

Technology overall can reduce the crime rate, improve investigation and assist in locking up

offenders. It can also be used as early warning signal to prevent the deaths in disasters and property loss.

Eastern Seaboard as symbol of a brighter future

We are also in UGU which is one of the Districts collaborating across borders to host the Eastern Seaboard Smart City together with Alfred Nzo and Harry Gwala Districts.

We are pleased this one project of the 6th Administration is a practical demonstration of the District Development Model (DDM) where governments and business collaborate across borders at municipal level.

The DDM model ensure that government departments at national and provincial levels combine resources and work as one towards the implementation of a single plan. We are certain that the DDM will unlock investment in various sectors such as mining, agriculture, tourism and infrastructure development in our province.

The Eastern Seaboard Development and the envisaged Smart Coastal African City or cities are a league above the rest. We are taking the province to the stratosphere

And we want to take all the people of this province with us.

Future cities take into consideration the climate challenges and use the latest technology to build a new environment for all in inclusiveness, just transition and social justice.

We are heartened by the progress we are making in renovating regional airports, including Margate Airport which has already helped more than doubled the number of visitors coming to the South Coast during the festive season.

KwaZulu-Natal has also launched a signature annual cultural festival along the South Coast and the potential for tourism growth and business development for the communities of the Eastern Cape are massive.

We call on all, investors, government and the community to work together for a better KwaZulu-Natal

Together Building Better Communities while Growing South Africa Together!

I thank you.