

**REMARKS BY FINANCE MEC AND UTHUKELA DISTRICT CABINET OSS
CHAMPION MS NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE AT THE YOUTH IN BUSINESS
OUTREACH PROGRAMME AT THE OKHAHLAMBA SPORTS COMPLEX**

BERGVILLE, 25 JUNE 2022

Programme director

Ukhahlamba Local Municipality Mayor; Cllr V Mlotshwa

To add

Sanibonani;

From the onset, let me thank each and everyone of you for making it today in what promises to be an opportunity to learn and be equipped with business skills and information.

Equally, it gives me great pleasure to be part of such a momentous event where we give meaning to our promise and pledge of giving our young people financial freedom.

We have come to realise that businesses owned by young people residing in far flung areas or communities that have small towns often struggle with access to information on how to efficiently run their businesses, access to business finance as well as lack of information related to government's supply chain protocols.

This often includes lack of information on how to start own businesses. This initiative today is aimed at reversing such fortunes of these fledgling businesses. The information and knowledge to be imparted here today is sacrosanct in order to mitigate high rate of unemployment that mostly affects the youth of our country. This can only be mitigated if young people become successful entrepreneurs in their own communities.

Financial freedom means you have the means, tools, pre-requisite skills and expertise to do business in a sustainable way. We do these initiatives understanding that the role of young people in the society has changed drastically in the past 28 years. Since 1994, we have worked with the youth of this country to attain our democratic breakthrough which has given us a chance to restore the dignity of our people and transform their lives.

Over the years, we have produced many more leaders and household names not just in politics, but also in business, science, education, engineering, ICT innovation, industry, medicine, social services, the creative sectors, media, and sports.

What is the use of having young people with zero business skills in a rapidly technologically advancing business space? That will mean a bleak future for all of us. In the same vein, the tools, knowledge and expertise that will be imparted to you today should assist you to be better business people, to be better citizens and raise sustainable families and build better communities.

The district of uThukela has everything going for it. Yes the statistics do show that it is one of the districts in the province acutely affected by high unemployment rate. The district has also been very unfortunate at losing some of the key industries leaving a gaping hole and destroying livelihoods in the process.

However, all is not lost. That small idea that often visits your mind can be a gateway to a bigger business ventures. Young people should be in agriculture and all its downstream economic arteries.

I'm happy that it was in this district and in this local municipality where we launched the provincial Multi-Planting Season last year to stimulate the agrarian revolution. Agriculture is not only about tilling the soil, but the industry as a whole has a lot of sectors that include food processing, packaging, logistics, warehousing using the latest reefer technologies. This is where we want you to consider going to. This is he space that remains untapped.

In early March, the Executive Council or the Cabinet of KwaZulu-Natal approved the Provincial Cannabis Committee to oversee the development of the industry in the province. The decision came shortly after President Cyril Ramaphosa announced during the State of the Nation Address that KwaZulu-Natal will lead in this new frontier of economic development.

The Premier stated that the potential for the cannabis/hemp industry is estimated at over R28 billion in South Africa with a potential to create between 10 000 and 20 000 job opportunities across the entire value-chain.

The establishment of the Cannabis industry will lead to the diversification of the economy, create jobs, increase economic growth and contribute to poverty alleviation. The Provincial Cannabis Committee will be responsible for growing the cannabis/hemp industry through ensuring adherence to regulatory systems, seed supply systems, research and technology development. Again this is the space that we require young people to seize and occupy. Historically, this area is known for growing a related herb to cannabis and I believe the people here have the know-how and the soil is fertile for such production.

It will also drive the sustainable producer systems, market development supplier development systems, manufacturing and product development, education and training, communication and awareness.

On business incubation and learnerships

KwaZulu-Natal prides itself to be the only province that initiated a dedicated programme to train students in the aviation industry. All our provincial departments are also actively involved in providing much needed internships and work experience to bridge the classroom and the world of work. We call on the private sector to provide experiential learning and internships for our youth. We also implore them to offer business opportunities to the youth of the province and to provide business incubation so that we can grow the provincial economy faster and more equitably.

Bantu abasha abasemabhizinisini, ngibalula loludaba ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi indawo yasoThukela, ikakhulukazi phansi kukaMaspala woKhahlamba eBergville inothe kakhulu ngolwazi lokulinywa kweCannabis lokhu esikwazi njengensangu. Kuqala besiyilima, siyivune, siyidayise ngokungekho emthethweni kodwa manje sesiyazi ukuthi emuva kokugunyazwa, sesingakwazi ukuyilimela ukuthi isebenze kwezinye izinto njengokwakha imithi yokwelapha ephuma emakhambini.

Singaba nabalimi noSomabhizinisi ababhekelele nje ukukhiqizwa kwayo siyifake emakethe ukuthi yakhe imikhiqizo eminingi engasisiza. Abanye balaboSomabhizinisi yinina lapha. Ninethuba eliyinqayizivele ukukhombisa ukuthi ningakwazi ukungena kwingxubevange – lokhu esithi yi-DIVERISTY – ngokwamabhizinisi enu. Futhi angifuni nisale ngaphandle kulelithuba ningabantu bakhona lapha oThukela. Kungangidabukisa ukuthi isiFunda sethu ebesihamba phambili ngaloluhlobo kulomkhiqizo walesitshalo sesisilele emuva.

Namuhla-ke njengoba bengishilo kade ngivula lenkulumo yami ukuthi singuHulumeni ayikho into esijabulisa njengokukwazi ukuthi sikhuphule abantu bakithi abasha kwezomnotho ngokuthi sibahlangabeze ngezinsiza zalokhu abakufunayo.

UHulumeni wasungula uhlelo lwe-Operation Vula eminyakeni edlule ukuze sihlangebezane nani njengoSomabhizinisi abancane ukuthi sinethule phela belu umthwalo ngenxa yokuthi anilutholi uxhaso kwizikhungo ezinjengamaBhange ukuze nikwazi ukufukula amabhizinisi enu.

Uhlelo lolu olubaluleke kakhulu olusisiza ngokuletha amathuba omnotho nemisebenzi kubantu bakithi kanti futhi luholwa laphayana phansi koMnyango kaBaba uRavi Pillay kwezokuThuthukiswa koMnotho, ezokuVakasha Kanye nokoNgiwa kweMvelo, noma phecelezi kwa-EDTEA. Sike sanivakashela kulesisiFunda ngonyaka ka-2020 sashiya impahla eningi koSomabhizinisi bakulendawo ngaphansi kohlelo lwe-Operation Vula ngisahola uMnyango wakwa-EDTEA.

Angiqale ngichaze ukuthi sisemshikashikeni wokufukula umnotho emuva kobhubhane lwe-Covid19 kanti sibheka kakhulu ukuthi lomnotho osemazingeni aphantsi ungadlala yiphi indima ekukhuliseni umnotho. The Operation Vula Fund is a grant funding scheme spearheaded by EDTEA with the aim of ensuring that adequate support is afforded towards the development and promotion of sustainable emerging enterprises which include SMMEs and Cooperatives. OVF programme was endorsed by the Provincial Executive Council in October 2019 and was launched on the 14th September 2021 in Uthukela District.

Uhlelo lweOperation Vula uhlelo olwaphasiswa nguHulumeni wesifundazwe njengomhlahlandlela osebenzayo ukuvulela abantu bakithi amathuba kwezomnotho.

Luneminxa emihlanu ngaphansi kwalo esihlose ngakho ukusiza abantu bakithi ikakhulukazi osomabhizinisi basemakhaya nasemalokishini abangenayo indlela yokuthola uxhaso mali kumabhange noma kwizikhungo ezibolekisa ngezimali noma ezidayisa impahla.

Umunxa wokuqala esifolosa ngawo yilona obizwa ngo**RASET (Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation)** esihlose ngalo ukuthi abalimi abancane

nabasafufusa bakhiqize bese bedayisela yena belu uHulumeni umkhiqizo wabo besebenzisa izikhungo zesiFunda ezigcina isivuno.

Owesibili umunxa yilona esithi yi-**Black Industrialist Programme** ebhekele ukuthuthukisa labosomabhizinisi abasemkhakheni wokwakha nokukhiqiza zonke izinto ezenziwa ngamafemu

Owesithathu umunxa yilona esiwubiza nge-**Bulk Buying** osiza kakhulu ama-tuckshop ukuthi akwazi ukuthenga ngqo kuma-Retailers ngomthamo omkhulu futhi nangenani eliphansi ukuthi bakwazi ukudayisa benze inzuzo ngokuthi bahlale benesitoko.

Umunxa wesine yilona esithi yi-**Rural and Township Economic Revitalisation** lapha kuwuhlelo lokuvuselela umnotho wasemalokishini futhi sisiza osomabhizinisi abancane abenza okuningi okwehlukene emalokishini nasezindaweni zasemakhaya, kungabe bakha bashisele amasango, benza i-panel beating, noma bakhanda izinjinini kube banama Bed and Breakfast.

Owesihlanu umunxa phansi *kwaOperation Vula* kuthiwa yi-**Youth Business Development Fund** okuyisikhwama esikhuthaza abantu abasha ukuthi babe yingxenywe yamabhizinisi nezomnotho. Uzokhumbula ukuthi sibambisene neHhovisi likaNdunankulu salwethula loluhlelo saphinde sasiza abantu abasha ngoxhaso.

Ake ngikhulume nge-**Rural and Township Economic Revitalisation**. Again, following July last year's unrest, EDTEA did a survey which led to the KZN provincial government approving an intervention aimed at providing a Relief Grant for Rural and Township shops that were affected by the looting and unrest. The Grant is an amount up to R20 000 per shop, and will assist more than 500 shops across the province with trading stock excluding alcohol and related products.

The funding intervention addresses the challenges faced by rural and township businesses which were affected but were left out due to under reportage during the July mayhem. The provincial government has since reprioritised R10 million which will be a grant funding targeting to support more than 500 shops across the province up to R20 000. The application forms are available at all EDTEA offices and will be subjected to rigorous verification processes to ensure that deserving and qualifying shops receive support.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It did not end there, the Cabinet also approved the Zimele Traders Fund - a KZN government-led programme to uplift community-based Rural and Township shops through provision of working capital loan funding and payment automation facilities. This Fund will provide shops and general dealers with support to transform their businesses into viable shopping outlets offering a one-stop shopping experience.

The loan amounts will be anything up to R100 000 per qualifying shop, and the shops will be supported with pay-point machines at no cost to the shop owner. This support is a first of its kind toward rural and township shops. This funding initiative will be implemented under the EDTEA. It will give an opportunity to Rural and Township shops to contribute to the local economy and assist in post-Covid-19 economic

recovery programme. The conditions for support under this fund are that the shop must be located in a Rural or Township area.

Before I close, I wish to reiterate the announcement made by the Premier who announced that we have disbursed R69 million towards the Youth Empowerment Fund during the first round. Currently, the Province is finalising allocations of the second round at R50 million. The third round which will be R100 million will be advertised before the end of the financial year. The Youth Chief Directorate at the Office of the Premier will dissect these funds for us.

Ngiyethemba niyayibona imisebenzi kaHulumeni wethu nemizamo yakhe yokufukula osomabhizini bethu abamnyama kanjalo nabantu abasha. Engikucela kunina nje ukuthi niwathathe lamathuba amaningi.

Phambili ngabantu abasha; Phambili!
Phambili ngokuthuthukiswa kosomabhizinisi bakithi; Phambili!
Phambili ngoHulumeni kaKhongolose onakelelayo; Phambili!

Ngiyabonga.