

COME INVEST IN OUR PROVINCE – MEC SCOTT ENCOURAGES BRICS PARTNERS

**The province is ripe and open for business**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Finance has thrown down a gauntlet to a cabal of BRICS business partners who are in Durban as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS Business Council Annual Meeting 2018 to consider upping their investment ante.

MEC Scott with other members of the Provincial Executive Council led by acting Premier, MEC Sihle Zikalala spent two days – from Sunday – participating in various platforms and a series of high-level engagement with some of the BRICS brightest business heads.

The engagement mainly sought to showcase the province as a ripe investment destination endowed with endless opportunities and comprehensive and government support structures.

Following a BRICS Business Council Working Breakfast that included New Development Bank Vice-President Xian Zhu, MEC Scott and HoD Simiso Magagula participated in a high-level plenary.

This was followed by a trip to the Dube Tradeport where MEC Scott formally welcomed the BRICS Business Council Delegates and discussed opportunities for investment.

“Here in KwaZulu-Natal we have two Special Economic Zones - Richards Bay and Durban - which allow us to attract direct foreign investment. There are a lot of incentives when investing here. We also have a body called Trade and Investment KZN. This body makes it easier to do business. It has several spin-offs that make trading easy. We sought out your customs issues, passports and all related duty challenges,” she said.

“And travelling has also been made easy by direct foreign flights like British Airways, Qatar and Emirates. There’s also a great opportunity of establishing direct flights to India which I am sure it will be considered by the BRICS delegates. It’s a no brainer, more so because here in Durban we have the largest population of Indians outside India,” she said.

“Having said so, KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa are open for business,”.