



# **KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**TREASURY**  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**REMARKS BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR FINANCE ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE PROVINCIAL TREASURY WOMEN'S DAY  
COMMEMORATIVE EVENT DELIVERED VIRTUALLY**

**27 AUGUST 2021**



**MS. NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE**

**MEC: FINANCE**

**Programme Director - Ms Thembi Mgujulwa**

**Provincial Treasury Acting Head of Department – Mrs Neli Shezi**

**Our Guest Speaker, Executive Regional Head, Vodacom Business – Ms Eleni Kwinana**

**Senior Management of Provincial Treasury**

**Ministry Officials led by Ms Nqobisile Mbodla**

**Women of Provincial Treasury**

Good morning all,

Thank you Acting HOD for the introduction and thank you all for extending the invite for me to be part of this wonderful event by the women of our department. It gives me pleasure to know that women issues top some of the priorities for this department.

It is, indeed, by no coincidence that Provincial Treasury has women at its helm which is testimony of the strides that have been made to advance the cause of women emancipation in public service. These are some of the attributes that will inspire youngest women among us to rise to leadership positions and take their place in the sun.

Let me premise my talk by quoting property mogul, Lynette Ntuli who is the founding director and Chief Executive Officer of Innate Investment Solution when she said: “Do it now! Being a pioneering woman is about not waiting until you are rich or famous or waiting for all of your stars to align”.

It starts now. No magical wand will be flashed to start your trajectory journey to the galaxies. Exemplary leading the public service is the greatest honour any women could ever attain. We have in our midst some of the most passionate women amongst you. I am talking about women who started with nothing, an unconquerable drive to succeed when every odd was stacked against them.

That is why I was to also express my gratitude and appreciation at two of our interns – Mbali Mlaba based at our Ministry and Samkelisiwe Sithebe, a SAICA trainee Accountant – for their words of wisdom. Indeed it take great comfort that this Department is a wonderful training ground for our young women. I am confident that through our retention policies we can cultivate more of a similar crop of young women who are passionate about what they are learning at Provincial Treasury.

I am mentioning this because their short address preceded that of Ms Kwinana who serves as a great inspiration for women in the technology and telecommunication

sector. The digital economy is another space where women are acutely scarce. I know Ms Kwinana can testify to this.

However, no-one ever get to the apex of any sector by moaning. As women we need to seize opportunities as they present themselves. Young women should bear in mind that possibilities are endless both in the corporate world and the public service. That is why it is my belief and conviction that the future of leadership is in the hands of women. This has been proven time and again and in Ms Kwinana our young women are standing on the broad shoulders of giants.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Ours is not a lip service, but the empowerment of women is ingrained in our political and government policy. This year we are celebrating one of the trailblazers and stalwarts of women struggle for emancipation, Charlotte Maxeke. We are also sending a message to all women to say their daily toil is recognised and appreciated. That is why two days ago when the KwaZulu-Natal Executive Council sat it took one of the most progressive decisions to rename the Government Garage after Charlotte Mannya Maxeke in line with the theme of this year. Such theme is centred on the values and lessons of 150 years of Mme Charlotte Maxeke. The renaming occasion will take place on 21 September 2021 during the commemoration of the Heritage month.

Having gathered here today, it would be a missed opportunity if we do not confront the challenges we face as women in leadership. So much occupies our attention that we tend to take our eyes off the ball because elements intent on delaying women leadership - real or perceived – deflect us from the ultimate goal. Women tend to be made to bear the brunt of all shortcomings by their male counterparts. This can be detrimental to their mental and physical ability to stay the course.

Acting HOD,

That is why our approach should be multi-pronged and our programmes responsive to the sensitivities that come with women leadership. We are duty-bound to accelerate our efforts as senior management in ensuring that any plan of action is supported by strong structures to ensure the success of women managers. Gone are the days when women were fixated by the so-called “Pull Her Down Syndrome”. Women are stronger together and are an unstoppable force. Next time you think about not helping a fellow woman, remember that “real queens fix each other’s crowns”. When I met the Manco of this department late last year, I stressed that while I expected us to do new and great things, the department needed to continue to advocate for mainstreaming and empowerment of women in every facet of its units. I also offered to ensure that women participate in various empowerment programmes offered by NPOs in partnership with the department. A special focus is to reverse gender inequalities in the workplace, especially in management where women leadership remains dire.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The KwaZulu-Natal Economic Reconstruction and Transformation Plan is designed to support massive job creation through localisation, industrialisation, agricultural support and SMME development. Here again we are placing women at the fore-front of these economic priorities. The Executive Council on Wednesday approved the finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding between our government and the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) for co-operation and collaboration at strategic and operational level. We are expecting more women-led companies to benefit immensely in this ground-breaking agreement. We are confident that real economic emancipation will be realised when our women are given opportunities they so deserve to carry this country into the future. With those words let me thank you and wish you all the best and remember you hold the power as women!

I thank you.

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