

**MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube's Speech during the New
Beginnings Bible Church Business Breakfast in
Chesterville, Durban.
Saturday, 18 March 2022.**

Programme Director

Senior Pastor Thami Mahlobo

Senior Members of The New Beginnings Bible Church

iBandla Lonke

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani!

Kuyangijabulisa ukuthola leli thuba singuHulumeni wentando yabantu sithole ithuba lokuzoxoxa nabantu abasikhetha sibahlomise ngamasu okuzithuthukisa.

Engikuthanda nakakhulu ukuthi simenywe iBandla – kusho lukhulu lokhu kimi ngoba umsebenzi kaHulumeni uyawadinga amandla omthandazo weBandla ukuze sikwazi ukuhlinzeka intuthuiko kubantu.

Lesi simemo sokuthi size lapha sisikhumbuza amagalelo eBandla ngesikhathi sobandlululo lithandazela ukuthi

ubhidlike umbuso wengcindezelo ukuze abantu bonke bakhululeke futhi babe namalungelo apheleleyo okuphila ezweni labo. Yezwakala futhi yaphenduleka imithandazo yenu njengoba senibona kukhona abantu abamnyama nabantu besifazane ezikhundleni eziphezulu kuHulumeni. Sibonga ngokungaphezi ngendima eniyidlalile ukuze sithole inkululeko ezweni lakithi. Qhubekani nokuba yisibani emiphakathini esiphila kuyo.

Siyalikhuthaza iBandla ukuthi liqhubeke nomsebenzi walo omuhle wokwakha isizwe. Sidinga oMama bomthandazo, abakhuleka bangaphezi kuze kubuye izimpendulo kuJehova. Isizwe sethu sihlushwa yizigebengu ezingena emakhaya zihlukumeze izingane, oGogo noMama bethu.

Kwesinye isikhathi kuba yiwo kanye amalunga omndeni ahlukumeza abazali bethu. IBandla alidlalisise indawo yalo lilwisane ukuhlukumezwa kwabantu kubikwe emaphoyiseni kuboshwe izigebengu. Akulona ihlazo ukubika emaphoyiseni ilunga lomndeni kepha kuyihlazo ukuhlala phezu kwendaba yokuhlukunyezwa komuntu emndenini ngoba uvikela ukuthi kungaboshwa iselelesi.

Kuyicala elibovu ukufihla isigebengu. Kuyisono futhi nakuSomandla ngoba ulindele ukuthi iBandla linakekele abangakwazi ukuzivikela. Sicela iBandla liphinde likhulekele ubumbano nozinzo emphakathini wethu ukuze intuthuko ifinyelele kubantu bonke. UHulumeni akakwazi ukuhlinzeka intuthuko kahle uma kukhona imidonsiswano endaweni. Sesadlula isikhathi sodlame manje sekufanele kuhlalwe phansi kukhulunywe ukuze sonke sihlomule entuthukweni kaHulumeni.

As we celebrate the Human Rights Month, the Church must continue to be vigilant, ensuring that people's rights are protected as the Constitution prescribes. In the days when women and children fall victims of gender-based violence, we want the church to hold the moral compass.

In the times when poverty and unemployment levels are high, the Church must play its role to nurture love and hope. This breakfast event is evidence that the Church is part of the solution to resolve the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The Covid-19 outbreak in 2019 was a huge setback for the world economy. Business operations ground to a halt. Companies closed down. People lost jobs. Poverty levels climbed up. The world economy plummeted. The impact of the disaster filtered down to KwaZulu-Natal and eight other provinces of this country.

While the country was wiggling out of the quagmire, the July 2021 unrest in KZN and Gauteng added salt to the wound. Scores of people lost their lives. Businesses were looted and thousands of people lost employment.

This has put immense pressure on Government to come up with an economic recovery plan to reverse the prevailing challenges. We all agree that Government alone will not come up with solutions. However, forums like this breakfast event create a platform to create lasting solutions that will turn around our economic challenges.

Programme Director, this breakfast event reminds me of the story of Nehemiah in the Bible who was troubled that the walls

and gates of Jerusalem were broken down. He took it upon himself to find solutions. He called on fellow Israelites to rebuild the infrastructure.

Today, the New Beginnings Bible Church is on a Nehemiac Mission to seek solutions to the rebuild our economy. I applaud you for refusing to watch helplessly from the side line when the gains made in the past 27-years of our democracy are under threat.

Government is creating the conditions that will enable the private sector – both big and small – to emerge, to grow, to access new markets, to create new products, and to hire more employees.

Government has identified unreliable electricity supply, inefficient railways and ports systems, scarcity of broadband spectrum which limits innovation, deteriorating water quality, lack of appetite by companies to invest and the poor performing economy as challenges to resolve.

With a view to address these challenges Government is accelerating the implementation of far-reaching structural reforms to modernise and transform these industries, unlock investment, reduce costs and increase competitiveness and growth.

Last week, I tabled a R140 billion Provincial Budget at the Legislature with the intention to improve the lives of the people in KZN. The budget was inspired by the views of people from various parts of this province.

The aim is to assist the Provincial Government to pursue multiple initiatives which include:

- major investments in public infrastructure aimed at increasing productive capacity and fast-tracking economic recovery;
- poverty alleviation and job creation for the masses trapped in poverty in the lower rungs of our economic and societal structures;
- radical economic transformation, incorporating initiatives such as the co-operatives and SMME financing programmes, aimed at increasing participation and broadening the base of the economy.

The budget seeks to support entrepreneurs who own Spaza shops and emerging enterprises in the townships and rural villages.

We remain firmly of the view that the focus on the implementation of radical economic transformation is based on a correct diagnosis of our economy.

The Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs will play a catalytic role to support small businesses and entrepreneurs so that we deal with economic growth and unemployment challenges. The department supports and promotes local economic development and local small-scale industries through the Operation Vula Fund and the Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation (RASET) programme with the aim of improving the economy and creating jobs in the province.

Operation Vula Fund will provide grant funding in areas such as manufacturing, SMME development, tourism, economic infrastructure development and job creation, with a focus on providing these types of skills and business opportunities at a local level. The KZN Growth Fund Trust will continue to play a key role in disbursing funds in respect of the Operation Vula Fund. In this regard, it is planned that the Operation Vula Fund

will also fund projects owned by women, youth and people with disabilities.

Comprehensive business and technical support will be provided to small enterprises operating within the Operation Vula Fund commodities, such as cleaning detergents, clothing and textile, bakery products, pulp and paper products. The support provided will include the provision of shared services and economic infrastructure so that small enterprises can improve their business operations.

In terms of continued support to co-operatives, the department intends to continue to fund enterprises that meet the qualifying criteria, including SMMEs and co-operatives through, aimed at ensuring that adequate support is afforded towards the establishment and promotion of sustainable emerging enterprises.

We must continue engaging on the budget and other Government matters to promote the values of democracy and transparency.

My Department will always be available to engage as the dialogues will continue to inform us if we are still holding the mandate that the people gave us when voting us into Government.

Intsha kufanele iye eMnyangweni wezokuThuthukiswa koMnotho, ezokuVakasha neMvelo ukuyothola kabanzi ukuthi iYouth Fund ingayilekela kanjani. Lo Hulumeni uzama ngazindlela zonke ukuthi ulekelele intsha yakithi ngoba asithandi ukuthi abantu abasha bahlale bangenzi lutho. Ikhusasa laleli lizwe lisezandleni zabantu abasha.

Kanjalo futhi amabhizinisi asathuthuka ayalekeleleka ngaphansi kweSMME Fund. Ukukhula komnotho kulele kakhulu kuwo lamabhizinisi athuthukayo. Yingakho uHulumeni enze uhlelo lokulekelela lawo mabhizinisi ukuze asimame aqashe abantu kukhule umnotho wesifundazwe sethu.

Asibambaneni silekelelane sikhulise umnotho wesifundazwe sethu eKZN!