

**REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE MS NELISWA PEGGY
NKONYENI (MPL) AT THE EVENT OF KZN PROVINCIAL TREASURY
LONG SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY
GOLDEN HORSE, PIETERMARITZBURG
10 FEBRUARY 2023**

Programme Director;
Head of Department, Ms. Carol Coetzee;
Senior Management;
The entire staff of the Department;
Esteemed guests;

Ladies and gentlemen good morning;

It gives me great pleasure to be standing here today, to celebrate with you the extraordinary work that is being done by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury.

Programme Director, today is not the day for long speeches, it is the day to take a pause and reflect on some of the achievements that we have accomplished as a team and individually in ensuring the collective promotion of good governance in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

One must appreciate the great and sterling job that has been done by the Provincial Treasury over the years. There are no doubts or fears, that work will not continue as long as this ship is still being steered by this group of courageous and dedicated men and women, with HOD Coetzee as the Captain.

The results are there for everyone to see, the department has been continuously making history in the entire country by obtaining 13 clean audit reports, year after year. We are therefore, well-poised to ensure that this milestone rubs off other government departments, municipalities and public entities in the Province in the near future.

We are however pleased with the last year's positive results encapsulated in the Auditor-General's Report showing a significant improvement in the number of departments that obtained clean audit reports. This is a testimony to the fact that our

strategic collective approach dubbed “Operational Clean Audit” is already bearing the desired fruits, and we are determined to work even harder. With the crop of these wonderful men and women of this department the future is certain.

It was definitely not a mistake when our former President Nelson Mandela encouraged us to ensure that we work in such a way that when we leave, we leave a durable mark in this world, and he said

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

Ladies and gentlemen, we are here, therefore, to elevate and awaken the conscience of many to the important role of each and every one in our department, the financial sector and indeed in society as a whole in order for them to realise their full potential.

What a great way of kick starting the year 2023. An award is a symbol given to a recipient as a token of recognition and appreciation of their excellent work contribution. Awarding people for their commitment and dedication inspires and motivates them to continue putting their focus and energy to their work.

A legendary author, poet, activist and all around inspiring woman, Maya Angelou touched once said

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

Therefore, one has no doubt that this year the KwaZulu-Natal Treasury we will definitely have a successful year because we started by appreciating and inspiring each and every one for their contribution in the success of this department.

We all know that February is the month of love, so we are spreading loving here.

On a lighter note, even those who were not going to receive anything from their partners next week now they have something to smile about. This is the best we could do as the department to brighten your month.

Studies have shown that a well looked after and happy employee is a productive employee. Different organisations use different mechanisms for keeping their employees happy & motivated. While raising wages will always make employees

happy, there are different ways to ensure their happiness. Being acknowledged and appreciated is obviously some of the proven methods to make employees happy.

We also need to care and support our colleagues. In the past two year we could not have these awards because of Covid-19, but we are happy now that we could again meet in this great fashion to celebrate one another's work.

In the past few years, we have lost so many people due to Covid-19, and now that the impact of the virus has been lessened, we must appreciate that. More than anything we also need to appreciate the gift of life. Almost all of us here we were once affected by this deadly virus, in one way or the other.

Let me congratulate all those who will be receiving the awards today.

So, as we discuss this, we must remember that it is an inclusive team that works collaboratively in government which can ensure that we serve the people of KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa with humility, dedication, and loyalty.

Remember, the enhanced service delivery to citizens solely depends upon a clean, accountable, efficient, and effective administration and good governance. We must always take a self-critical evaluation and decide how as the Provincial Treasury we can change the poor public perceptions about government.

As a public servant we must be concerned that when people think of government they always think of corruption and maladministration. We should strive to detach ourselves with laziness and wrongdoing. People expect from us commitment and coherent plans to improve their lives. It can't be that at the end of the month we enjoy our salaries when knowing that we don't do what we are paid for. We cannot have most people languishing in dire poverty.

This again does not mean that we should not take care of ourselves. Your work takes up a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work and the only way to do great work is to love what you do.

It is my utmost conviction that this exercise will strengthen relationships and draw you closer to each other, as valued staff members of our department.

As I conclude Programme Director, let me again borrow words from our former Statesman Nelson Mandela when he said,

"Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

Let us be that generation that will ensure that we do not only run a clean and reputable department, but we are also able to assist our sister departments to also do better.

With these few words, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you all the best of luck as you are about to be rewarded for rendering an excellent service to the KwaZulu-Natal government.

I thank you!