

**REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE MS NELISWA PEGGY
NKONYENI (MPL) DURING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
PLENARY SESSION**

29 AUGUST 2022

Director of the session;

Chairperson of the Public Service Commission; Prof Fikeni;

Deputy Chairperson, Ms Mqolomba;

Commissioners;

The Director General, Advocate Dube (Ms)

DDGs;

Support staff;

Ladies and gentlemen good morning,

It is indeed an honour and a privilege for me to be standing here today representing the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial government at this very important gathering of the Commission where you are going to be strategising and reviewing some of your policies and deciding whether they are still relevant to guide you well in the execution of your responsibilities as the commission.

Please allow me to first congratulate Professor Fikeni and Ms Mqolomba for their appointment by the President, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa as the Chairperson, and the Deputy Chairperson of the Public Service Commission respectively. With the vast experience that you are both bringing to the commission we have no doubt that the work of the commission is in good hands. We call upon staff members of the commission and the public at large to give you support in the commission and in the execution of your responsibilities.

Chapter 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa delegates power to the Public Service Commission, act independently and impartially in investigating,

monitoring and evaluating the organisation and administration of the public service. It must do so without fear, favour or prejudice.

Your oversight role is therefore very important to us as Public Servants in ensuring that we run an ethical and clean government, one that is professional and able to deliver services as required by the population of this country.

On behalf of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, that is always driven by ethical and professional governance, we would like to welcome the commission to this beautiful province. We commit ourselves to always support the work of the commission in ensuring that we build a capable state.

As you all know, our province is still in the process of recovering from the impact of Covid-19 global pandemic and the 2021 civil unrest. This has had a huge impact on our economy as it has forced the closure of many industries and businesses. It has further contributed to the high unemployment rate.

The unrest on the other side, saw our province being reduced to ashes, and as a result a number of people in the province lost their jobs. That has exerted an immense pressure on us government to ensure that we rebuild our province and cater for all those who lost their sources of income.

While we were still in the process of recovery and rebuilding our economy, our Province was again hit by the devastating floods in March and April, which further destroyed our infrastructure. This has obviously derailed our efforts of improving the lives of the people of KwaZulu-Natal and diverted our focus as government of KwaZulu-Natal.

It is, however, pleasing to note that as the provincial government, we have developed a clear and implementable recovery plan. We are, however, aware that there are many people who are still waiting for assistance from government, especially in the reconstruction of roads and houses to accommodate people who were displaced. Just yesterday our Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube officiated a milestone in identifying vacant land and buildings that could possibly accommodate hundreds of people who

were still housed in community halls following the floods. We see this as great achievement in restoring the lives of flood victims back to normalcy.

People of this province are cautious and want to ensure that nothing untoward happens during the process of recovery and rebuilding of our economy.

Last week we were briefed on the work that is currently being done by the commission with various public institutions within the province in improving on our conduct as public servants. We believe that this is very key as we are in the process of cleansing our government of any wrongdoing. Our ultimate goal is to run a clean and corruption free state.

As the provincial government, we commit to do our utmost best to ensure that we abide by the Public Service regulations, and to build and strengthen close relations with the Public Service Commission.

In conclusion, let me wish the commission well during your deliberations and again recommit in our support and working with the commission in ensuring that as government we continue to provide services to the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

I thank you.