

**REMARKS BY KWAZULU-NATAL FINANCE MEC AND THE LEADER OF
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, AMBSSR NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE AT THE
PROVINCIAL CRIME PREVENTION SUMMIT.**

INTRODUCING THE PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL

OLIVE CONVENTION CENTRE, ETHEKWINI

03 JUNE 2022

Programme Director; MEC Nonhlanhla Khoza

Premier of KwaZulu-Natal; Mr Sihle Zikalala

Members of the KwaZulu-Natal Executive Council;

EThekweni Mayor; Cllr Mxolisi Kaunda

Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders; Inkosi PDH Chiliza

KwaZulu-Natal Director-General; Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS; Lt-Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi

Mayors present

Councillors

Amakhosi and Izinduna

Leaders of Inter-Faith Fraternity

Leaders in the Security Industry

Academia

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

It is such a privilege to be afforded the opportunity to introduce the Premier of our beloved Province of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala. This is a man who is very passionate about community well-being and who likes to lead from the front in all practical facets.

Hon Premier;

I would first like to say a few words in relation to the start of this Crime Prevention Summit which, thankfully, could not have come at an apt time. Crime, like poverty and unemployment destroys families, communities and leads to acute social

fragmentation. Crime, in the past two decades has had such detrimental impact on the citizens that it has also perpetuated inequality thus destroying social cohesion agenda.

I would like to pay tribute to MEC Nkonyeni for making the members of the Executive Council recognise that the longer we sit and do nothing the quicker our province and the country as a whole will be usurped and annihilated by criminal dogma. The Executive Council took a decision during its Lekgotla held on 16 to 18 February 2022 for a Provincial Crime Prevention Summit to be held to garner effective solutions to safety and security challenges within KwaZulu-Natal, and to enhance collaboration in their implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Summits like this should make us introspect, take stock and ask ourselves deeper question as to our role in preventing crime. Crime prevention is possible and that possibility should be used to better the lives of the people to create conducive living and working conditions.

When jobs dwindle and when unemployment soars, fertile ground is created and cultivated and crime germinates take route and bear very sour fruits. We cannot look at the prevention without first laying the ground work that would be a deterrent to criminal activities.

The testament of this can also be traced to the words of former State President Nelson Mandela who once opined that: ***“When a man is denied the right to live the life he believes in, he has no choice but to become an outlaw,”***.

While there is no plausible and generally accepted excuse for crime, unfavourable conditions indeed breed crime. The state, the government and indeed all its leaders and public servants have a joint duty to create conducive conditions where citizens’ dreams and prospects thrive for the good. We have a Constitutional duty to enhance public safety.

I really must hasten to point out that the ultimate objective of this summit is to develop a problem-solving framework, informed by root cause analysis. This framework should look for multi-agency solutions to identified problems and use a range of methods of crime and violence prevention.

It is our collective belief that as you disperse to commissions and plenaries you bear in mind the urgent need to keep our communities safe. I believe this will not descend to a talk-shop with resolutions that will not be implemented. We have a task at hand, dare I remind you all.

Lt-Gen Mkhwanazi, Ndonga,

Technology and advancements in its application is a readily available tool that will help us combat crime and prevent it where it rears its ugly head. I believe the commission will look into this and come up with cost-effective and advance ways to marry technology with crime fighting.

It does not end there. We should also use the public purse so effectively that we ensure that every rand allocated to the SAPS, RTI, Correctional Services goes a long way in preventing and combating crime.

Kepha-ke angizile lapha ukuzogeqa amagula, ngoba asemuki kepha ngizokwethula uNdunankulu wesiFundanzwe saKwaZulu-Natal, uBaba uKhuzeni.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr Sihle Zikalala is an ANC activist, husband and a father. He is driven by the ideals of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, equal and prosperous society.

Born in Ndwedwe in 1973 to a religious family, he grew up to become a humble yet formidable and courageous social activist.

The circumstances of colonial and apartheid misrule of the time determined him to fight to throw off the yoke of poverty and social injustice that Blacks were subjected to. These early experiences with inequality and prejudice inevitably forced Zikalala to join the liberation movement at the tender age of fifteen years.

It was the beginning of a journey that would see him entrusted with key responsibilities within the Liberation Movement in South Africa, including being appointed Secretary General of the ANC Youth League, ANC KZN Deputy Provincial Secretary and Provincial Secretary.

He is currently the ANC KZN Provincial Chairperson in KwaZulu-Natal and the Premier.

Prior to his deployment as Premier, Mr Zikalala was the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) and Leader of Government Business – positions which he held with great diligence and passion.

It was under Mr Zikalala and the legislature collective that the province of KwaZulu-Natal pioneered ground-breaking transformation programmes under Operation Vula, which included Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation (RASET) as well as a Bulk Buying and Warehousing programme.

He has carved out a solid reputation for himself as an ardent proponent of the Black Industrialist Programme, a national government initiative which seeks to hasten the pace of the empowerment of black owned enterprises.

Premier Zikalala contributed immensely to the attainment of peace in KwaZulu-Natal in the early 1990s. He remains seized with the task of deepening peace, advancing democracy and achieving social and economic prosperity in KwaZulu-Natal.

At the heart of his efforts lies a passion to see the KZN economy transformed, growing, and being competitive to reduce inequality, poverty, and unemployment.

Mr Zikalala is a champion for gender equality, youth empowerment, and an advocate for quality education. He strongly believes in education and regards it as an

indispensable weapon in the arsenal to advance equality and improve the quality of lives.

Mr Zikalala holds a degree in Communication Science from the University of South Africa, an Honours degree in Public Administration from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and holds a Masters degree in Leadership Studies from UKZN.

Ladies and Gentle, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala. Khuzeni.

I thank you.