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HON. MEC NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE
MEC: FINANCE

E-DIALOGUE

The Working Culture of The Public Service
-Creating A Heritage of Organisational Efficiency



THE YEAR OF:
**CHARLOTTE
MAXEKE**
THE MEANING OF FREEDOM
UNDER COVID-19

**STAY
SAFE**
PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**

PUBLIC SECTOR ICT FORUM: COLLABORATION AS A DRIVER FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Finance, MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube says the KZN Digital and Transformation Strategy 2020 – 2025 recognises that the rapid advancement of technology and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), coupled by heightened Artificial Intelligence, has transformed how government and industries conduct business.

MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube gave a keynote address at the Public Sector ICT forum discussed under the topic 'Collaboration As A Driver For Digital Transformation In The Public Sector.' The Public Sector ICT Forum provides a platform and opportunity for the public sector ICT decision makers to come together, engage and discuss key topics. The virtual seminar delve on how public sector entities are embracing collaboration as one of the cornerstones of digital transformation and how this has led to enhanced service delivery in the various arms of the South African public sector.

"A Smart Province is the province of the future, made safe, secure, and efficient because all structures such as power, water, transportation, designed, constructed, and maintained making use of advanced, integrated materials, sensors, electronics and networks which are interfaced with computerised systems, comprised of databases, tracking, and decision-making algorithms," said MEC Dube-Ncube. The Public Sector ICT Forum, which has strategically positioned itself as a conduit for collaboration among national, provincial and local government and agencies, SMMEs and civil society organisations, presented the collaboration as a driver for digital transformation in the public sector.

The webinar was attended by leading industry experts from different public sector enterprises and shared insights on how collaboration can be promoted in order to drive digital transformation.

"My view of the ICT and digital future of KwaZulu-Natal is a province that monitors, integrates and collaborates in conditions of all its critical infrastructures, including roads, bridges, tunnels, rail, airports, seaports, communications, water, power, even major buildings, can better optimise its resources, plan its preventive maintenance activities, and monitor security aspects while maximising services to its citizens," MEC Dube-Ncube said

The industry experts at the event delve deeper into:

. How collaboration will lead to the better and more efficient utilization of the public sector's great minds resulting in enhanced innovation and improved service delivery?

. How collaboration between all government institutions, departments and agencies will lead to the streamlining of resources and thus; the reduction of operational costs and overheads?

. What policies and strategies are in place, which promote collaboration between the public sector and other players in the South African economy?

. How to break the existing siloes and create an open environment that acknowledges and promote the benefits of collaboration?

Identifying the various aspects of the public sector that need to be streamlined in order to create seamless Omni-channel experiences for the citizens while they interact with the government via its various touch points.

PUBLIC SECTOR ICT FORUM: COLLABORATION AS A DRIVER FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR



Responding to these, MEC Dube-Ncube said that the province of KwaZulu-Natal, as a competitive province in many aspects, aims to fulfil these objectives through the systematic and collaborative implementation of the KwaZulu-Natal Digital Transformation Strategy which is being developed by government, business, academic, and civil society.

She said: "The Digital Transformation Strategy will build on the existing initiatives and frameworks within the ICT and related sectors such as the National Development Plan (NDP), The National Integrated ICT policy white paper, the ICT RDI Roadmap to name a few."

She further said that the KwaZulu-Natal Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2025 states that because Digital Transformation is a driving force for innovative, inclusive, and sustainable growth, this requires improving the standards of service quality and increasing the overall efficiencies of the government.

"We further argue that digital transformation and the quality of service delivery are inextricably intertwined. I need not remind you that this was reaffirmed in 2005 by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs that the application of Information and Communication Technology within the public administration enhances both the internal and external functions. It thus provides government, business and the citizen with a set of tools that can potentially revolutionize the way in which interactions across departments take place, the manner in which services are delivered and how policy is developed and implemented," she said.

The MEC added that digital transformation presents an opportunity for citizens to participate in governance and public administration reform to ensure good governance. Recognising Government's current efforts in prioritising digital transformation tied with building an inclusive information society and knowledge economy that is based on the needs of the citizens, business and public sector, the KZN Digital Transformation Strategy seeks to accelerate and guide a common, coordinated response to reap the benefits of the current digital revolution.

Having devised all these innovative plans and strategies, the question often comes, and rightly so, as to how then do we break the existing siloes and create an open environment that acknowledges and promotes the benefits of collaboration.

"Our vision is to make KZN a vibrant, innovative, fully inclusive knowledge society with a strong ICT, digital and electronics brand that speaks of innovative approaches to local and global challenges. The province must be an example of an environment where ICT and digital-based innovation flourishes with social entrepreneurs from historically disadvantaged population groups, remote communities and the knowledge intensive industry benefiting and contributing to the well-being and quality of life of our citizens. This is how we can possibly end the siloes."

-MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube

MULTI-PLANTING SEASON AND INTENSIFIED SUPPORT TO FARMERS TO DRIVE RADICAL AGRARIAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION



To usher in the start of planting as the country is enjoying the rain season, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government launched the Multi-Planting Season Programme in the uThukela District Municipality where Finance MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube is the Political District Champion.

The programme launched by Premier Sihle Zikalala is aimed at eradicating the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment through ensuring inclusive economic development by investing in agriculture.

Premier Zikalala also announced that the province has set aside a total budget of R65.3 million for 2021/22 Multi Planting Season Programme to accommodate the mechanisation services.

The Premier was joined by the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Ravi Pillay, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Bongi Sithole-Moloi, MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Sipho Hlomuka, MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Jomo Sibiya, local leadership and the Director-General of the Province Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize.

MEC Dube-Ncube who was the programme director, said that the Multi-Planting Season Programme which is led by the provincial Department of Agriculture will play a significant role in addressing the challenge of food insecurity in the province and can serve as a tool for communities to start agricultural business and promote economic growth.

At the launch, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development planned to cultivate a minimum of 2 265 hectares of land in the District.

The planting season in uThukela District focuses more on the production of summer crops (maize and beans) and vegetable production in support of the Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation (RASET) programme. The programme is further designed to provide better access to food and create an opportunity for localised production in order to promote equitable access by resourcing poor households.

While launching the programme, Premier Zikalala said through the Multi-Planting Season Programme, the province provides support to farmers inclusive of services such as supply of production inputs (fertilizer, seed and chemicals), provision of mechanisation services (ploughing, disking, planting and application of agro-chemicals and fertilizer) and assistance with marketing of produce especially through RASET and other outlets.

MULTI-PLANTING SEASON AND INTENSIFIED SUPPORT TO FARMERS TO DRIVE RADICAL AGRARIAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION



In the 2021/22 financial year, KwaZulu-Natal will cultivate no less than 21 394 hectares in the entire province. The province's targets are: Amajuba (2 300 hectare); Ethekwini (250 hectares); Ilembe (500 hectares); Harry Gwala (3 900 hectares); Ugu (2000 hectares); Umkhanyakude (1 597 hectares); King Cetshwayo (1 000 hectares); UMgungundlovu (1 050 hectares); UMzinyathi (3 662 hectares); Zululand (2 870 hectares) and as we said, 2 265 hectares here in uThukela.

In the Alfred Duma Local Municipality, 756 hectares will be cultivated as follows: 450 hectares of maize, 286 hectares of beans and 20 hectares of vegetables. In Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality 764 hectares will be planted in the 2021/2022 season as follows: 450 hectares of maize; 284 hectares of beans; and 30 hectares of vegetables. In Okhahlamba, the plan is to plant 450 hectares of maize; 285 hectares of beans; and 10 hectares of vegetables.

"The planting season programme has a potential to create 159 job opportunities during and post operations through various services including but not limited to tractor operators, crop management and harvesting services and many more. The multi-pronged planting programme provides opportunities for the use of SMME's through the provision of mechanization services. The implementation of the programme is expected to reach approximately 18 921 beneficiaries across the province. The majority of the beneficiaries is made of 60% of female beneficiaries represented by approximately 11 357 people. Furthermore, approximately 2 457 youth and 198 disabled people involved in agriculture will also benefit from the support provided," said Premier Zikalala.

Premier Zikalala said that the KwaZulu-Natal government is dedicated to helping women-led and women-owned farming businesses so that women are empowered to run sustainable agricultural businesses which feed communities and the province at large with nutritious and life-giving food.

"We are pleased to report that each District has made provision to procure seed for new entrants and we are at the advance stage of procurement. Through reprioritization process, R20million has been set aside for procurement of seed. UThukela District has been allocated 2 350 bags of fertilizer to kickstart the launch of this year's Multi Planting Season Programme. Beneficiaries of this financial year's Multi Planting Season Programme total 2 000 with 1 050 males, 950 women, 370 young people and 85 people with disabilities," said Premier Zikalala.

To ensure sustainability and to reiterate the importance of sustainable planting for food security, MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube conducted another visit to the District following the Provincial launch in the Alfred Duma Local Municipality, Hlonyane, Ward 29.

FINANCE HON NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE ON THE OCCASION OF THE SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS



In November, we as a country are going to the polls to continue to put a stamp and affirm our young democracy and to ensure that a culture of an accountable government thrives.

Local government is a very critical sphere of our government as it serves as the backbone of service delivery. This is a tier of government that gets us closer to the people wherein our aspirations are reflected. Local government is like a mirror of the entire government for this is where the level of service delivery reflect to all and sundry.

Provincial Treasury plays a huge role in the management and legislative oversight of municipal finances. The department support and give guidance as to how municipalities manage the public purse, thus their challenges become our challenges as well.

In this regard, I pay tribute to the Provincial Treasury officials and staff for achieving the 12th successive clean audit which is testimony to the commitment and spirit of accountability that this department continue to strive for.

Ever since Treasury last appeared before the Sitting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Department has had several engagements with the Office of the Auditor-General and the Office of the Premier to reflect on the state of audit within the department.

As the leader of Provincial Treasury and the MEC for Finance, it gives me great confidence knowing that our appearance before the SCOPA committee is one of the major coup against unaccountability. We understand that spending public finances requires accountability being reproach and that the ordinary citizen's livelihood are ring-fenced.

I am humbled to be working with a great team of financial experts led by our Acting HOD, Ms Neli



Shezi. The many engagements we have had have been nothing but fruitful in speeding up service delivery.

We have agreed that, at all times, we will be characterized by strategic planning on how to deploy state resources to ensure service delivery by provincial government departments, entities and municipalities.

Treasury makes a commitment to ensure that the Department becomes a reliable enabler for all government departments and municipalities. This team led by the AHOD and myself continue to have many robust engagements with other MECs and I am happy that we have succeeded to make them understand the role of Treasury and also the present challenges confronting the fiscus.

It should be noted that, in terms of the Audit Improvement Strategy, while we have several findings, the management has been swift to make several meaningful recommendations, action plan and have put deadlines on when these actions should be taken.

I have stated before that the inability to spend money to drive socio-economic development will be a source of frustration for unemployed and poor people. Provincial Treasury has the ability, means and resources to enact a meaningful and sustained impact to our people. This we need to ensure that using our fiscal muscle we achieve the economies of scale.

The provincial Government has set itself to ensure that we utilize the procurement mechanism, as per our policy mandates. We need to utilize this as a catalyst for change and transformation of many of the communities who have never participated in government provincial spend.

MEC NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE ROADBLOCK INSPECTION ON N11, LADYSMITH



MEC for Finance Nomusa Dube-Ncube engaged drivers and passengers during a roadblock on N11 outside Ladysmith. The roadblock was part of Government activities planned for the Transport Month (October). MEC Dube-Ncube encouraged road users to observe the rules of the road. She also explained the dangers of using alcohol and use the road, both by passengers and drivers.

KWAZULU-NATAL AND UNITED NATIONS CEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO AID REBUILDING EFFORTS IN THE PROVINCE POST THE CIVIL UNREST



The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government's rebuilding efforts have received a much-needed boost following the United Nations' pledge of R20-million in catalytic resources. This includes R10 million to support educational interventions, R7 million for social cohesion dialogues and R2 million to support Gender-Based Violence shelters in the province.

To give effect to this intervention, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala and the Resident Coordinator and Head of the United Nations in South Africa, Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which identifies priority areas in which the province and the UN will collaborate to assist communities and entities as part of the rebuilding efforts.

Speaking during the historic MoU signing ceremony, Premier Zikalala said: "Our partnership with the United Nations is critical in our provincial efforts of building enduring peace and advancing sustainable development where no one is left behind. As we strengthen our law enforcement and put in place plans to mitigate future occurrences, we also agree that we need to get to the root causes of anti-social behaviour in KwaZulu-Natal and indeed in our country. In this regard, we share the sentiment by the UN Resident Coordinator that, "People need a stake in the economy because then they will protect it, not destroy it," said Premier Zikalala.

"We appreciate that the UN has pledged its support to the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal to assist in rebuilding affected communities and to address the underlying causes of the complex developmental landscape in the province. On my part as Co-Chair of the Provincial Steering Committee with the UN Resident Coordinator, I commit to ensure that the spirit and intent of the MoU is translated into tangible benefits that will promote sustainable development, heal our people, unite them, and restore their dignity," said Premier Zikalala.

In her remarks at the signing ceremony, Ms Bekele-Thomas said the MoU "marks the next stage of our relationship with the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal and its people and speaks to the commitment we made to the Government of South Africa, through the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, to further the national developmental agenda at a subnational level."

Ms. Bekele-Thomas called on the Government, the UN, business leaders and the civil society to work hand in hand with local communities. "If we do not face the truth of what happened, if we return to business as usual then we will fail, and it will be on our shoulders," she warned.

**"The United Nations pledge
R20-million in catalytic resources. R10 million to support educational interventions,
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"For decades the United Nations has assisted our country in adapting to the challenges of the world and those facing South Africa in particular."

-MEC Dube-Ncube

Ms Bekele-Thomas said the intentions of the support the United Nations wishes to provide through this MoU is to compliment the ongoing efforts of the Provincial Government while ensuring that the duplication of efforts is avoided.

"To demonstrate our commitment to the Emergency Response Plan, the United Nations family in South Africa, we are committing more than R20 million as catalytic resources to support the implementation of this programme. This includes R10 million to support educational interventions, R7 million for social cohesion dialogues through community radio stations and R2 million to support GBV shelters in the province. I want to challenge the private sector to, at the very least, match our initial funding and I look to all our partners to share their knowledge, experience, resources, and to contribute to our planning and implementation," said Ms Bekele-Thomas.

In the vote of thanks, delivered on behalf of the Government of KwaZulu-Natal by the Leader of Government Business and MEC for Finance, Hon. Nomusa Dube-Ncube, she expressed gratitude at the United Nations for their continued and relentless support of the South African project and KwaZulu-Natal in particular.

"For decades the United Nations has assisted our country in adapting to the challenges of the world and those facing South Africa in particular," said MEC Dube-Ncube.

She further said that South Africa remains faithful to the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter. It strongly advocates rules-based multilateralism. "In pursuance of this objective, South Africa is an active participant in the main deliberative and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, i.e. the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, Peace Building Commission (PBC) as well as the Human Rights Council. Our commitment to promoting and achieving the vision of the African Continent and its prosperity, peace, democracy, non-racialism, non-sexism and unity all contributes to a world that is just and equitable through effective multilateralism at the sub-regional (SADC), regional (AU) and global level (UN).

LAUNCH OF THE WATER MASTER PLAN AND BOREHOLE INTERVENTION PROGRAMME



The communities of Highflats, uMzimkhulu, Ixopo and Bulwer under the Harry Gwala District Municipality finally received reprieve from their water woes and have access to water closer to their homes and businesses.

This comes after the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal Sihle Zikalala launched the Water Master Plan Borehole intervention programme aimed at alleviating water shortage in rural communities. The Premier led MEC's to commission a number of boreholes in the municipal jurisdiction. Premier Zikalala said the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal has prioritised the provision of water and other basic services including electricity, sanitation, roads and internet access.

Umzimkhulu Local Municipality Mayor Cllr. Mpabanga represented the MEC for Finance, Hon Nomusa Dube-Ncube during the inspection of the borehole in Pholanyoni in Ward 8, which was commissioned by resident engineer Mr. Mazibuko. Also in attendance were UThukela HOD Champion, Mr. Ntokozo Chonco and Induna yenkosip uMama Jaca, the Head of Ministry in the Office of the MEC, Mrs Ngobisile Mbodla and Ministry officials.

"Water is life. It is a precious resource we cannot survive without. We cannot grow the economy and create employment without it. It is necessary for agriculture and is always at the heart of economic development. With the advent of COVID-19, we also saw water becoming central in fighting the pandemic which first announced itself in KwaZulu-Natal in March 2020. Our prevention strategy for arresting the spread of the

infectious virus has been based on strict hand hygiene by washing hands regularly," said Premier Zikalala.

Furthermore, Premier Zikalala said other major water projects include:

- The uMshwathi Bulk Water Scheme launched in November 2020 at cost of R 500 million;
- The Lower uMkhomazi BWSS Umgeni Water which is estimated to be completed in 2023 at an estimated total cost of R 3 billion;
- Cwabeni Project Location which will be completed in 2022 at an estimated total cost of R 1 billion.
- Stephen Dlamini Dam - the estimated project cost is R 1 billion and the estimated completion date is 2023;
- uMkhomazi Water Project: once completely developed, phase 1 and phase 2, will be the largest water transfer scheme in South Africa, at an estimated total cost of R 23 billion.

"The Water Master Plan is one of the clearest indications by our government of our commitment to building better communities by delivery that is tangible, demonstrable and measurable. This Provincial Water Master Plan lays out all the facets of that requirement and will be a test of our mission to build a capable developmental state which adequately addresses the needs of our people in its delivery of quality, sustainable services. The plan will require no less than R150 billion in the next ten to fifteen years," said Premier Zikalala.

THE ECONOMY GROWS BY 1,2% IN Q2: 2021-STATS SA



The South African economy recorded its fourth consecutive quarter of growth, expanding by 1,2% in the second quarter of 2021 (April–June).¹ This followed a revised 1,0% rise in real gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter (January–March). Despite the gains made over the last four quarters, the economy is 1,4% smaller than what it was before the COVID-19 pandemic. The results from this release cover the months of April, May and June. This means that the economic impact of the wave of severe economic disruption, protest action and violence in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, which took place in July, will reflect in the third quarter GDP results that are due for release in December. COVID-19: We're not out of the woods yet

The sudden drop in economic activity during the second quarter of 2020, when lockdown restrictions were at their most severe, is evident in the chart below. In the first quarter of that year, real GDP was R1 147 billion, tumbling to R947 billion in the following quarter as the country barricaded itself against the pandemic. The economy has seen consistent growth since that shock, but not enough to return to pre-COVID-19 levels. Real GDP was R1 131 billion in the second quarter of 2021, 1,4% down from the reading in the first quarter of 2020.

COVID-19: WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET

GDP production: COVID-19 related activities spur growth in personal services Six of the ten industries recorded a rise in production in the second quarter of 2021. The transport & communication, personal services and trade industries were the most significant drivers of growth in the second quarter, with transport & communication and agriculture recording the highest growth rates.

GDP PRODUCTION: COVID-19 RELATED ACTIVITIES SPUR GROWTH IN PERSONAL SERVICES

A surge in economic activity related to land transport and communications underpinned the 6,9% rise in transport, storage & communication. Personal services, which includes health related activities, increased by 2,5% in the second quarter. This was on the back of increased economic activity related to the second phase of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme that kicked off on 17 May. Another contributor to growth in personal services was from medical schemes that recorded a rise in membership numbers. Trade increased by 2,2%, driven by a rise in economic activity across all trade sectors.

EXPENDITURE ON GDP: EXPORTS AND HOUSEHOLD SPENDING SUPPORT GROWTH

The rise in trade activity in the second quarter is reflected on the demand (expenditure) side of the economy. Household final consumption expenditure increased by 0,5%, driven mostly by a rise in household spending on transport, food & non-alcoholic beverages, and health. Exports increased by 4,0%, driven mostly by trade in mineral products, pearls, precious & semi-precious stones, precious metals and vehicles & other transport equipment.

For more information, Stats SA website: Q2: 2021 GDP

Article courtesy of: Stats SA website

<http://www.statssa.gov.za>

TREASURY CREATES A NEW HERITAGE



The Provincial Treasury needs to create and entrench a new working culture to respond to the need of people that Government serves.

This culture dictates that the Provincial Treasury, as the engine of government, produces to the satisfaction of sister government departments, municipalities and sister departments, and the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Addressing staff at the Heritage Day event MEC for Finance for Finance expressed the need to make the department sensitive to the needs of the people.

MEC Dube-Ncube said the people of this province expect Government to lead them and provide solutions to their needs. "It is important that we entrench our position and play our role to lead. We need to be innovative and create meaningful heritage for future generations," she said.

Echoing the MEC's words UKZN Prof. Paulus Zulu said the department should realign itself to be a working organisation.

"Develop systems that you are going to take over into the other departments and they have to follow your systems because you are charged with that gate keeping function. Develop systems of monitoring, develop systems of evaluating and have all your pulse in every project in the department, that's why you have an internal audit department," said Prof. Zulu.

He added that, "if you are going to build a working Provincial Treasury department then that department has to be manned and womanned by thinkers.

"If we are going to build a department that is of value to the nation that is a Heritage to our children. Then that department has to be a department that reflects conceptions of a good society," said Prof. Paulus Zulu.

He added that "the department should be a department of actions, of works and not of people if you are going to build a heritage".

Co-guest speaker at the event, University of Free State Professor Pearl Sithole urged leadership and professionals to use their skills and resources meaningfully to the advantage of the people they serve.

He called on government to be responsive and relevant to the needs of the people.

"What is it that we need to do in order to catapult the institutional heritage from just being operational and too dogmatic into being useful to the citizen. Other analyst think we should do something called "epistemic disobedience" in other words to break the chains that are holding us, that are making us arrogant to the citizen. We need to put it on the table what needs to be done," she said.



It should be noted that Government is the driver of fiscal policy, and one area of fiscal policy which I will focus on is government spending. Government Spending - entails how government spends all revenue it's able to generate, in order to drive various key government programmes and ensure that services delivery takes place.

I would also like to speak about one key Batho Pele principle relevant to this discussion, the principle of VALUE FOR MONEY - Public services should be provided economically and efficiently in order to give citizens the best possible value for money.

In creating a culture and heritage of organization efficiencies - Based on my observation since joining government close to six (6) years ago, we need to utilize scarce government resources, especially financial resources, to introduce, and reassess various government processes, programmes and systems in order to ensure that as government, we are able to obtain value for money for each Rand spent, by maximizing output and the impact of key government programmes aimed at driving service delivery with minimal inputs i.e. Doing more with less = efficiency.

Am sure you must be wondering how this can be achieved?

DECENTRALIZATION VS CENTRALIZATION

- Reassessing which functions or processes need to be decentralized or centralized in order to realize efficiencies, and ensure that the organization and sector at large, is able to appropriately serve its clients/citizens.

- An example of this in Provincial Treasury (PT) – The department recently changed its organizational structure with the aim ensuring that as a department we are able to efficiently support and serve our client departments, public entities and municipalities within our mandate.

- I've witnessed other departments and state organizations are doing the same, which is great because it shows that as government we would like to ensure we conduct government business in the most efficient and effective manner.

- The reassessment of functions as detailed above needs to take place as, and when various operational conditions change, or when various inefficiencies are identified overtime. It's key to note that "What was working today, might not work in the future".

2. INTEGRATION

- From an organizational (Provincial Treasury) point of view – We need to work with various units within the organization in order to collaborate efforts and resources (financial and human) required to ensure that as an organization we provide our clients with the best possible service, and that we are able to meet our desired outputs and objectives. Examples of collaborations on various projects that I have witnessed within my unit: Financial Reporting and Public Finance, Financial Reporting and Internal Audit, Financial Reporting and Provincial Supply Chain Management.

- Integration is key within government as a whole. This also includes working with other government institutions/departments/municipalities in order to ensure government operations and programmes are executed are as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- An example of a model where government aims at realizing integration within the sector is the District Development Model which – “aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery with focus on 44 Districts and 8 Metros around the country as development spaces that can be used as centres of service delivery and economic development, including job creation”.
- Integrated IT (Information Technology) systems are also very important as we currently live in a highly digitalized age. Integrated systems would truly assist government with expediting various government processes and programmes.
- Integrated – expertise, age mix, thinking, knowledge and operations are a must if we would like to realize a heritage and culture of organizational efficiency.
- In my view Intergovernmental Relations divisions within various government institutions would definitely play a key role in driving efforts of integration within the public sector.

3. DIGITIZATION

- Digitization is very important in governments efforts to create a Heritage of Organizational Efficiency.
- Initial investments might be costly, however, the benefits thereof would surely exceed the initial costs incurred to digitize various government processes.
- Considering the current economic outlook in the country and province, efforts to digitize government processes should be done within the currently fiscal framework. Furthermore, there is a possibility that in order to digitize processes in government, some processes might not require additional financial resources. We might just have to reassess what we currently have as government, and identify how we can utilize that which we have at our disposal to the best of our ability.
- It encouraging to witness various efforts made by PT and other state organizations with regards to increasing their efforts towards digitization of government processes and operations. Example: e-Leave system, e-Submission, e-Invoice Tool etc.
- The digitization of government processes could definitely save time and money, increase output, and ensure that as government we efficiently use resources in order to maximize the impact of government programmes.



GALLERY

