

Address by Hon Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni MPL, MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works in KwaZulu-Natal on the occasion of the Empowerment Women in the Built Environment Summit, Hampshire Hotel, Ballito, 16-17 August 2019

Heads of Department

Members of the EXCO and officials

Our partners and stakeholders in the Built Environment sector

Specially invited guests

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Comrades and Friends

Fellow South Africans

Sanibonani nonke

Thank you for responding to this Summit in your numbers and giving us the benefit of your wisdom.

Convening this Summit is one way of demonstrating that we are a caring government, a listening government, a government that consults and receives feedback on its policies and programmes.

When I took office at the end of May, I made a clear statement that my empowerment priorities will be biased towards youth, women and people with disabilities.

This summit is an expression of that priority. It is an unequivocal commitment to radical socio-economic transformation.

It is especially significant that we convene during our national celebrations of Women's Month.

Let us honour our gallant grandmothers, mothers, sisters and daughters for keeping the flame of struggle burning.

Let us never forget the heritage bequeathed to us by the Women of 1956, of all races, ages and coming from all parts of our beautiful land who descended in their thousands on the seat of racist power and shook its foundations.

Malibongwe igama lama khosikazi ...

Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokodo ...

While 1956 is prominent in our national consciousness, that is not the first occasion on which women of our country rose against injustice.

From the shores of Table Bay in the 17th century to the vast open plains of the Eastern Cape to the hills of KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and well beyond, we are born of fighting women.

That history is recorded in oral traditions and stories that we must tell our daughters and theirs.

Too little of that is written in the books in our libraries. That is an omission that scholars and academics among us have a historic responsibility to correct.

One woman whose life and work is constant inspiration to us is Mam' Charlotte Mannya Maxeke.

Her story is in our library books and we must tell it as often as possible to inspire our people.

As a young 23-year old woman, Mam' Charlotte travelled from her home in Limpopo to America as part of a touring company of choristers. Benefactors in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) enabled her to win a space at Wilberforce University.

It was there in 1901 that she graduated with a B.Sc degree. We proudly record her as the first black woman in South Africa to get a degree.

She was however not content to be a woman with a degree ready for a life of comfort and personal material prosperity. Her education was to be a tool of struggle for the freedom and empowerment of her oppressed people.

On returning home with her husband, Marshall, the Maxekes raised funds to build a primary and a high school as well as a teacher's training college.

That would be a formidable achievement today let alone at the turn of the last century at the height of colonial oppression.

When the African National Congress was founded in 1912 in Bloemfontein she was the lone woman in the room. History records her as having made a formidable contribution at that milestone meeting. She was also one of the leaders of the Bantu Women's League (BML).

Her biographer Cde Zubeida Jaffer quotes Mam' Charlotte as saying at a meeting in 1917: *"It is high time that the voice of black women be heard. They must ready themselves for a struggle."*

We are proud today to say that we are products of struggle. For many among us as emerging women contractors the struggle for radical socio-economic transformation remains our daily struggle.

The resolutions of this Summit must therefore give us a roadmap for clear and demonstrable transformation.

Let us be moved into action by the record of Mam'Charlotte and the thousands of women like her.

Long before our sisters of 1956 confronted Strijdom, her biographer tells us that as leader of the BWL she led a delegation to the then colonial prime minister, General Louis Botha, to object to laws in the Orange Free State against women.

At the second conference of the National Council of African Women (NCAW) in 1938 in Bloemfontein, she left us with this epic call to action: *"The work is not for oneself. Kill the spirit of 'self' and do not live above your people, but with them. If you rise above them, take somebody with you."*

That is the spirit of mutual support and collective achievement that this Summit should be characterised by.

We must each look to work with each other, rise with each other and always look to carry somebody with us.

That is easier said than done. The national reality is one of a contracting economy, declining tax revenues, increasing debt and unemployment that has risen to 29%.

All of this is unfolding within an increasingly hostile global political and economic climate.

Coming out of struggle we are however a resilient and creative people. Let us seek out the creative spaces to move our country forward.

Infrastructure development is a key driver of our economy.

As Human Settlements and Public Works, we are firmly of the belief that state-led infrastructure development will give the jolt that our economy desperately needs.

Initiatives like Siyakha Incubation Programme and Eyesizwe Contractor Development Programme are designed to promote access and empowerment and consequently advance radical socio-economic transformation.

In my Budget Speech, I spoke about Eyesizwe which Public Works introduced as a means of empowering emerging contractors between CIDB Grade 1 to 6.

Currently the total number of the contractors on the database is 3186. Of these, 614 were admitted in Phase 1 and 2572 admitted during the Phase 2 intake.

The database has 1481 Women Contractors and 1415 Youth Contractors. R681m worth of projects were awarded to ECDP Contractors since 2015.

We were also pleased that partnerships have been established with IThala and Absa banks to provide bridging finance to contractors in need of financial assistance and guarantees.

The Department has advertised for the Eyesizwe database Phase 3 intake with a focus to include more Youth, Women, People with Disabilities and Military Veterans Contractors.

We are of-course cognisant of the great need to increase the number of companies in our operational system. It is for this reason that the Department is finalising the process to create a panel of companies of designated groups through the **Siyakha Incubation Programme**.

Designed as a three (3) year programme, Siyakha Incubation Programme will focus on companies in CIDB level 1 – 4 by introducing these into the sector, and provide them with capacity training, compliance and business skills development programmes to ensure that they can gradually grow into sustainable businesses.

Companies compliant in terms of the built environment statutory requirements, will be paired with Implementing Agents who are already undertaking planning and construction work for the Departments.

The call for participation in the Siyakha Incubation Programme **will be advertised** by mid-September 2019.

Please allow me to give you a quick overview of no fewer than 19 policy instruments in Human Settlements. The details of this will be elaborated by the officials in their presentations.

Izinhlobo ezihlukahlukene zemiXhaso esinazo kubhasikidi wethu wesibonelelo.

Ngiyaqonda ukuthi selokhu kwabakhona uHulumeni wentando yeningi uma kukhulunywa ngohlelo lezindlu zesibonelelo lukaHulumeni into efika emqondweni kuqala yilokhu okubizwa ngokuthi “imixhaso” kanti akunjalo kepha kunezinhlelo ezibhekele imikhakha ehlukene engizoyichaza ukuze siqonde okungumsebenzi ngqo wawo uMnyango.

Yilezi izinhlelo eziletha imisebenzi yezezindlu ziphinde zihlinzeke nosizo lokuqalisa izinhlelo,

Lezizinhlelo zibhekele abantu abayizakhamizi zase Ningizimu Afrika abanomazisi oluhlaza onamagabelo abangakaze bahlomule kuhlelo lesibonelelo lukaHulumeni nabahola ngaphansi kuka R3 500.00

1.Uhlelo lwezindlu zomXhaso – Loluhlelo olwaziwa kakhulu futhi olungumgododla wezinhlelo zesibonelelo oludume ngokuthi yi RDP

2. Uhlelo loXhaso lokuthuthukiswa kwezindawo zokuhlala oludidiyele – IRDP (Integrated Residential Development Programme) isibonelo iCornubia Catalytic Project

3. Uhlelo lwezindlu zabantu olwengenzelelwe (Enhanced Peoples Housing Programme) – Vulindlela EPHP

4. Uhlelo lomklamo wezindlu zasemakhaya – Rural Housing Development Programme – isibonelo kulesiSifunda uMkhonto noSokesimbone kuMasipala wakwaMaphumulo nalapha KwaDukuza

5. Uhlelo lwezindawo zaseMapulazini – Farm Workers / Dwellers Assistance Programme

6. Uxhaso oluhlanganisile – Consolidation Subsidy (isibonele saloluhle lulaphaya eMsunduzi endaweni ebizwa nge Happy Valley kanye noSite 11.

7. Uxhaso lwezinhlangano (Institutional Subsidy) – TAFTA Kanye noLungisisa Indlela Village (LIV). Sinalo lapha KwaDukuza eGroutville esalakhela izingane eziyizintandane

8. Uhlelo lomuntu ngayedwana (Individual Subsidy)

9. Ukwenziwa ngcono kwezindawo eziyimijondolo (Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme) lapha KwaDukuza isbonelo yiGroutville Priority 1 and 5 Projects

10. Uhlelo lomhlomulo wesaphulelo olukhulisiwe – EEDBS (Enhanced Extended Discount Benefit Scheme) – kususwa zonke izikweletu zerenti ukuze umndeni unikwe ubunikazi – R293 Townships, nezindawo ezazibekelwe ezinye izinhlanga ezazingaphansi koMnyango weZithunywa;

11. Izakhiwo zemiphakathi nezomnotho (Community Residential Units (R 379 000.00) Lapha KwaDukuza kunendawo okuthiwa yiRock Park CRU. Phambilini bekwaziwa ngokuthi ama hostela

12. Social Housing Programmes

13. Uhlelo lokusiza labo abangomakebona embuthweni yamasosha (Military Veterans Programme)

14. Ukulungiswa komthamo wezindlu wangaphambi kuka 1994 (Pre 1994 Rectification Programme)

15. Ukugunyazwa koMasipala (Municipal Accreditation). NjengoMasipala walapha KwaDukuza nawo ugunyaziwe esigabeni sesibili ukuthi wenze imisebenzi yokulungiselela ukwakhiwa kwezindlu

16. Uhlelo olubhekele abantu abangakwazi ukuthola usizo lomxhaso ngenxa yokuthi bahola ngaphezu kuka R3 500 kodwa futhi bengakwazi ukuthola ukusizakala kwizikhungo ezibolekisa ngemali zokwakha izindlu ngoba bengaholi kakhulu laba esithi

baphakathi nendawo (Financed Individual Linked Subsidy Programme FLISP) GAP MARKET (abahola phakathi kuka R 3501,00 to R 22 000.00)

17. Uhlelo lokwakhela abakhubazekile

18. Uhlelo lokusiza ezimweni ezimeni eziphuthumayo (Emergency / Operation Sukuma Sakhe)

19. Service Sites Programme – SinguMnyango ngaloluhlelo siyavuma ukuthi akusiwo wonke umuntu odinga ukuthi uHulumeni amakhele indlu kepha kukhona labo abangakwazi ukuzakhela kepha badinga umhlaba onengqalasizinda efana namanzi neyokuthutha indle nogesi bese bona beyazakhela besizwa ngamabhangi noma bathole usizo lwemali yokwakha kweminye imithombo. Loluhlelo lusebenza ezindaweni zomasipala kuphela emadolobheni hayi ezindaweni umhlaba ongaphansi kweNgonyama Trust Board.

Njengoba silusabalalisa loluhlelo lweziza esezikulungele ukuthi kwakhiwe izindlu kuzo, kuzoba namathuba kwizinkampani zokwakha ukuthi zithole umsebenzi wokwakhela lababantu izindlu.

On the Public Works terrain, there are a number of State properties earmarked for sale or long-term lease to the private sector to enable radical socio-economic transformation.

Ngiyethemba ukuthi abesiFazane bazokwazi ukuwathola lamathuba baphinde futhi babambe iqhaza elikhulu neligqamile ekwengameleni umhlaba nasekubeni ngabanikazi bezindawo ezifana namabhilidi lawa avame ukuthi aqashwe yimiNyango ehlukehlukene yaHulumeni. Lokhu kuzobe kuhambisana nenqubo kaHulumeni wokuletha izinguquko ezisheshayo kwezomnotho.

You may be aware that Public Works is responsible for the provincial coordination of the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Kulonyaka wezimali ophezulu ka 2019 kuya ku 2020 siphokophele ukudala amathuba emisebenzi angu 121 889 lapho sizobe sigxile ekutheni kuhlomule kakhulu iNtsha nabesiFazane.

Baningi osoNkontileka engihlala ngikhuluma nabo abashoyo ukuthi izinhlelo zethu zinhle impela kepha singuHulumeni sibuye senze kancane masekumele sizihlinzeke zisebenze.

You have shared with me your frustration of constantly having to renew your details on the database.

Ukuniphendula kulokhu kukhathazeka kweni sengithe kulezizinyanga ezintathu nginikwe lomsebenzi yokuhola leminyango ngabona ukuthi angingenelele ngokuthi bonke ababhalise kwi Eyesizwe Contractor Development Programme bangabe besavuselela kepha bahlale unomphela ohlwini lwezinkampani ezenza umsebenzi mazicelwa nguHulumeni.

Siphinde futhi senza indlela yokuthi kungabe kusaba khona izikhathi zokuvula nokuvala uma izinkampani zifuna ukuba ngaphansi kohlelo le Eyesizwe Contractor Development Programme njengoba bekunjalo phambilini.

Sesihlele nokuthi labo abafaka izicelo zomsebenzi kuHulumeni kube ngabantu abasuka eduze lapho umsebenzi kumele wenziwe khona kungasuki abantu bakude bazofaka ama tender zibe zikhona izinkampani zakhona endaweni. Lokhu sikwenzela ukuthi umsebenzi utholwe ngumuntu ngendlela elinganayo.

Lokhu kuyisiqinisekiso sokuthi sekuzoba nokwabelana namathuba alinganayo kubobonke osoNkontileka ezinhlelweni zikaHulumeni.

In closing please allow me to draw on the wisdom of my President in the ANC Women's League Cde Bathabile Dlamini who in addressing the recent ANC Women's League Lekgotla said as follows: ***“As this current generation of women leaders, we need to take a leaf from our forebears who worked together across colour lines and prioritised the interest of women at all times.***

The past leaders of the women's movement used every opportunity available to them to ensure that they work together in advancing women's struggles. They convened conferences such as Malibongwe to shape women's positions on different issues. In such gatherings, they emerged with resolutions and programmes that were a product of fruitful and focussed discussions.

Resolutions were taken to inform and guide the struggle for women emancipation. Unity of the women beyond race brought women together to defeat apartheid,”

Among the resolutions of the Lekgotla that are pertinent to the agenda of this summit are the following;

There is an increase in the number of business malls in our communities and many of them source their products outside local communities, there is a need to engage them as well as local municipalities to ensure that they source their goods and services from the local communities with special preference being women businesses.

Women participation in a number of major economic sectors is still not satisfactory, this includes participation in sectors such as transport, property development, construction, fishery, farming, agriculture and textile industries.

We need to make sure that the Women's League engages Government and the private sector to ensure that women are active in all these sectors of the economy where they are less involved.

I am also pleased to inform you that the Minister for Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu will honour

our province with the Women's Build Project at which commemorates the 1956 Women's March. This will be on 29th August in Msunduzi Municipality.

I want to leave you with the commitment that we will strive to work tirelessly and with great dedication.

We are a revolutionary government of the people, we are nothing but the servants of the people.

I thank you.