

Honourable Premier

Leader of African Peer Review Mechanism

Members of the Executive Council

Members of the Peer Review Mechanism

Professor Adebayo Adedeje said last night, this APRM process is meant to help a country understand the need to use a mirror in the privacy of “ a bedroom” In this case the mirror is to be used as a major source of personal proficiency. We all have used a mirror before. In the privacy of your bedroom, you look at yourself in the mirror, you really see your complete self. You check yourself again, you look again and you accept yourself and decide how you want to correct that image. Nobody decides for you.

We feel honoured and proud to host the African Peer Review Team this morning. We are certain that they will find their short stay in this province very memorable and will plan to come again. The programme of the day will consolidate the contents of KZN report. I would like to take this opportunity to deliver this report to the honorable Premier of this province to hand it over to the Chairperson of the team Professor Adebayo Adedeje. This

Province is the first Province in this country that has developed a citizens charter, strategic plans aligned with PGDS.

All Local Government structures have incorporated traditional leadership in their traditional councils. This Province has embarked on a comprehensive participatory developmentally ideology called Massification Project (mbo). This involves taking all these members of the executive and head of Departments to local communities to account and listen to the masses.

We have a enormous programme of BBEE which place a lot of emphasis to a co-operative development.

However this does not go without challenges. Poverty in some peri-urban and rural areas is a major concern. The pandemic of HIV and Aids is a threat. The unemployment rate impedes on our socio-economic development strategies.

Once more we welcome our colleagues in the struggle for reconstruction of Africa. I hope you still enjoying your stay in South Africa and you have disproved and approved a lot of myths about us.

South Africa the province of KwaZulu-Natal in particular recognises the opportunity provided by the APRM to meet its African leadership responsibilities and our approach to its implementation seeks to contribute to setting precedents in good practice.

We as a province have come to understand that the strategic objectives underlying South Africa's implementation of the APR process are:

- To establish benchmarks that can be used in future review processes.
- To strengthen and deepen democracy
- To contribute to strengthening provincial and national systems for assessing government's performance in delivering on its development objectives.
- To build and popularise a broader sense of ownership for the People's Contract and government's national development priorities
- To support the building of African based knowledge and experience in utilising the Peer Review Mechanisms.

Yesterday we alluded to the fact that our approach sought to ensure that, while government leads the review process, non-State actors also champion it so that it is participatory and a broad base of South Africans can own the result. Intergovernmental and civil society engagement took place throughout the processes and also came together in one collective, the Governing Council.

Our approach aimed to avoid the proliferation of structures by using already existing bodies, and where bodies had to be created, their purposes and lifespan were clearly defined by the needs of the review process.

The approach followed also sought to ensure that operational support was provided by already existing bodies so that the various deliverables were produced on time. We had various challenges in producing the province's reliable signal of a country's governance and economic policies. We had to ensure that the province's team and the peer review report are credible. Secondly, areas receiving bad reviews must have incentives to improve.

In spite of all these important challenges the African Peer Review Mechanism is a voluntary system whereby countries encourage

each other to adopt NEPAD's policies that engender political stability and economic growth, development, and integration through the sharing of experiences among policy makers through mutual review. In KwaZulu-Natal we saw this process as an important African Policy formulation process to benefit all our future generation.

This morning the cabinet of KwaZulu-Natal under the leadership of the Premier Honourable S Ndebele will present the provincial APR report. This is a credible report which is presented in full knowledge of the fact that South Africa as a member state will be expected at some stage to undertake reforms needed to improve governance.

I thank you

*(Hand Over Report)*