

**Address by the KZN MEC for Health Ms NP Nkonyeni to the
Black Management Forum – Empangeni Tuesday 28th August
2007**

PROTOCOL

1) AUGUST as a WOMEN'S MONTH

The official declaration of August as a month to celebrate women every year should never be misconstrued as a political and moral misplacement. There are many who still feel licensed to question the decision to designate the whole of August as a month put aside to focus on women. August is a month to celebrate the achievements and contribution of women to all spheres of public service (for example in government, judiciary, parliament, senior management).

August is designated to recognize the role and successes of women within the realm of civil society (for example in non-governmental organizations sector, within communities of faith like churches, within community projects initiated for children and the elderly).

August is put away every to foreground success stories of women in business and women in the corporate world, stories that are not shared with the public on day-to-day basis, stories that celebrate initiatives by women to create jobs, reduce unemployment and joblessness, stories that focus on achievement rather than failure; focus on the capacity of women to create and take available opportunities rather than their self-criticism and criticism of others; focus on woman self-empowerment rather than on the bashing of men as obstacles to women empowerment.

This for me is the special significance of August every year in this country, even as we know that we as women should be celebrated every day of the week. It is not a month to moan, twiddle out thumbs in regret and cry tears of lost opportunities. It is OUR month and we have a right to define what should constitute its meaning, value and worth for us as WOMEN.

The Book of Proverbs in the Holy bible, to be precise, Proverbs 31, verses 25 to 29 speak of Women of Noble Character. It goes thus:

*'She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.'*

Years, as Women of Noble Character, I agreed to come here so as to brief you on opportunities that Department of Health can offer you.

For the purposes of this special Black Management Forum consultation, we deemed it necessary that you all get to know what services the Department of Health needs; what categories, quantities and times for closing the tender submission where this is possible. I will thus share with you the general outline of competitive possibilities available through the public tender system.

I first need to inform you that the department has established a unit that deals specifically with the question of Targeted Enterprise Development; Historically Disadvantaged Individuals and SMMEs in its procurement activities.

This ladies, is in line with Supply Chain Management, which was enacted to, *inter alia*, establish a system for the procurement of goods and services and give effect to the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (5/2000) intended to create and sustain conditions for the empowerment of small, medium and micro enterprises.

I must point out that the department's commitment to the vision and principles of redressing the imbalances of the past is unwavering, hence the establishment of that particular unit.

The Unit started operating in May 2005 and is located within the Finance Management Cluster of the KwaZulu Natal Department of Health.

This unit deals with supplies that are intrinsically hardware and some are software but both need a response from the business community that would have capacity to interpret our needs with exactitude and a quality base.

Some of the services we are looking are premised on Joint Ventures between SMMEs and well-established conventional business enterprises that have a history of quality delivery both within the public and private sectors.

Let me get to some of the specific supplies and contracts that are out already and all close by the **18th of September 2007**.

We need the supply and delivery of pedometers.

We need the supply and delivery of digital voice recorders.

We also need the supply and delivery breastfeeding flipcharts.

Quotations have also been invited for the repair of garage doors and installation of main roladoor.

We have furthermore invited quotations for the supply of boardroom furniture.

As stated above all these supplies and deliveries are to be quoted for no later than 11oclock on 18th September 2007.

The Bid documents for these specifications and the attendant requirements will be available on Friday 31 August 2007 from the Central Supply Chain Management at Capital Towers First Floor 121 Chief Albert Luthuli Street in PIETERMARITZBURG.

This is our way of empowering our people, with a deliberate bias towards companies that were historically disadvantaged and companies that are headed and run by women.

There are also supplies needed from companies that are largely though not exclusively involved in the office and buildings-cleaning industry.

These include among others, detergent liquids, kitchen cloths, bed sheets, towel-dressings and theatre towels, urinal disinfectants, safety syringes, white night-dresses, white dust coats and white head-bands, deodorant blocks.

We also need mortuary cleaners, various types of brooms, aerosols, staple removers and different manner of tapes, epaulettes and jerseys.

There are specific ZNQ numbers and descriptive specifications of the items on tender.

The total procurement budget for the current financial year (2007-2008) is R4 billion rand with con-committal estimates for items like:

- ✚ medical equipment and medical accessories
- ✚ advertising and broadcasting
- ✚ consultancy expertise
- ✚ disposable non-medical clothing
- ✚ laundry and mechanical equipment
- ✚ corporate gifts and promotional materials
- ✚ maintenance equipment (for example tyre and tube)
- ✚ garden and grounds services
- ✚ pest control
- ✚ waste management
- ✚ stationery and allied office supplies
- ✚ security services

I have given you what amounts to major samples of contracts still waiting to be awarded within the current financial year.

The services as you heard are varied and have estimate budgets attached to each line item with the total procurement budget being **R4 billion**. We are obligated by law to use the economies of scale as

racism and sexism played a malevolent differentiating role in the past consideration of contracts.

We are a government that cares and a government that is determined to redress the historical imbalances from the Local level through the Provincial level right up to the National levels of governance.

This information would be of relevance and interest to you as I indicated earlier. I have tried as best I could to summarize the essential services to be covered in the outstanding contracts. But it is of course up to you as businesswomen (and men) to find the requisite Bid documents and use them as directed by the designated authorities.

What I can tell you is that as a Department, through the Targeted Enterprises we are committed to substantially improve the ability of those we give contracts to, to compete for business in an open SMME and broader market by affording them basic business skills, for example costing for quotations and tenders, and thereby ensuring that they become sustainable business ventures.