

Speech by KZN Health MEC Neliswa Nkonyeni on the occasion of the Women's Summit at the Royal Hotel

29 August 2008

All protocol observed

As we welcome you all with boundless joy, let us not lose sight of the heroines that sacrificed their lives in order for us to converge in this colonial establishment. It is appropriate that we pay tribute and invoke the spirits of:

- Mkabayi ka Jama *the General of the Zulu warriors*
- Princess Nandi *umama weLembe eleqa amanye amaLembe ngokukhalipha.*
- Princess Magogo; *yebo Mama okungangeni ngesango kuyafohla*
- Florence Mkhize; *isigagayi senkululeko*
- Gladys Manzi; *isosha languquko*
- Victoria Mxenge *who legally represented host of those who were being prosecuted but who was killed in this province*
- Dorothy Nyembe, *first woman to be sentenced for being an MK soldier in the 1960's* and a host of women whose contributions were never documented

There could have been no better way of concluding the women's month celebrations other than with this Women's Summit intended to empower all of us with regards to economic development as a way of altering our lives for the better.

Through this summit, the Department has created a platform where those enlightened amongst us must make it their duty to pull, drag and take everyone

along. There can be no competition amongst us, our lives are at stake as figures tell us that the current poverty rate in this Province stands at 54, 3%.

The Department has called on all of you from all our Districts to come and partake on deliberations that are aimed at better enhancing our efforts to involve you in the acquisition and provision of goods and services that have for the long time been sourced from big conglomerates and white owned companies.

Those of you who think that we are only about Panados; syringes and bandages are totally wrong. Our vision is clear in that we aim to achieve the optimal health status for all in this province.

Ukulapha kanye nokuhlenga yebo, kungumsebenzi wethu kodwa ke ngaphezu kwaloko iningi imali eseyichitha sithenga izimpahla ezenza ukuhlala kwabantu ezibhedlela kube lula.

This morning I want to tell you that this Department has an annual budget of over **R15 billion**. Even though we cannot spend as we will because of last year's over expenditure, we still have a responsibility of acquiring all the essential items that qualify us to say we are providing quality health.

We still have a bigger responsibility of working towards the attainment of the **Millennium Development Goals** for which we are expected to strive among other things for:

- Eradication of poverty and inequality
- Addressing the impact of HIV and AIDS
- Providing social security nets for the poor
- Investing in infrastructure
- Human capability development

- Strengthening governance, inclusive of a safe and secure environment for the patients
- Promoting rural development and urban renewal
- Investing in job creating economic growth

In the quest to attain the above mentioned, there lie opportunities for all of us.
Ubutyebi obukade bukhuluphalisa ezinye izizwe.

Singabaphathi boMnyango wezeMpilo sithi kanti koze kube nini?

Izimfuno zethu singamakhosikazi masikhumbule futhi ukuthi kwavunyelwana ngazo ku **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** lapho kwathiwa:

As Governments we are called upon to take strategic action in the following critical areas of concern:

- The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
- Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training
- Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services
- Violence against women
- Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women
- Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women
- Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media
- Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child

This Department has a motto that say; we are committed to *Fighting diseases; Fighting poverty and Giving hope* and that this we do by implementing integrated and comprehensive poverty eradication strategies. The establishment of the Targeted Enterprises Development Unit to service those marginalized by the first economy must then be understood in that context. This effort must be viewed and accepted as our attempts to supplement and augment on government social responsibility initiatives like housing subsidies, grants, free basic healthcare for children and free basic services to the poor. *Loku kuyingxenywe futhi yegalelo esilifakayo ezinhlelweni ze Extended Public Works Programme.*

Accelerating our advance towards the achievement of the goal for health for all

Kulonyaka sisebenzela phezu kwengqikithi ethi:

Business Unusual: All Power to the Women

Abantu abasihlanganisile namhlanje bangaphansi koMnyango wezeMpilo esigabeni esibhekene nezamabhizinisi Targeted Enterprises Development nehlose ukuphakamisa izinga leMpilo yalaba ababecindezelwe. Yazi ukuthi izinhloso zaloluphiko yilezi:

- Marketing business opportunities with the Department *ukwazisa ngamathuba akhona eMnyangweni*
- Creating sustainable business opportunities *asifuni uhluleke endleni*
- Providing training on the completion of bid documents and ensuring compliance with all stipulated procedures *uqeqeshwa mahhala*
- Facilitating easy access to those in rural areas *asibheki ukuthi usemakhaya anjani*

We have set this Summit's programme in such a way that by the time you finish; you would not only know how to easily access Health Department sponsored

opportunities but to also better understand what other government departments have to offer.

We are saying, from the onset; regard this Women's Summit as a Provincial War Room on War against poverty.

Let us give praise to the organizing team for succeeding to bring under one roof departments such as the Premier's Office; Agriculture; Provincial and Local Government; Trade and Industry, Mineral and Energy as well as business bodies like the NAFCOC. *Masiyisebenzise ngokugcwele le Summit ukubeka imibono ngokusebenza kwalezinhlaka.*

Let us come out of this Summit having been empowered on the following:

- How to get funding from Department of Trade Industry
- Understanding synergy with the Department of Agriculture
- Understanding One Village One Product concept; as well as
- Gaining an insight and experience from those already supplying us with services.

My paramount task here is to appeal to you to take every presentation; advice and testimony very seriously because the more people get involved in business. less will be the number of people getting sick and flowing to our already overburdened health care institutions.

Kulomkhankaso sifuna ukubona omama bedlala indima enkulu ngoba sekuvunyiwe ukuthi: our freedom is not complete until women are seen as equal partners in our quest for a better life for all.

Abaningi benu bazobona ukuthi lapha kuphumelela laba abazimisele ukusebenzisa amakhono abo emvelo kungabhekwanga ukuthi umuntu ufunde kangakanani.

Seminingi kakhulu imisebenzi esiyinike abantu kuma District wonke. Bheka nje kulonyaka wezimali u **2006/ 7** ingu **R94 million** imali esiyikhiphele ama co-operatives kanye nezinkampani ezisafufusa. Kulesisamba, izinkampani zabomama bebodwa zona sizihlomulise ngo **R28 million**.

Asigcinanga lapho ngoba ku financial year ka **2007/8** lemali inyukele ku **R149 million** kwathi izinkampani zomama zahlomula ngo **R53 million**.

SinguMnyango loku sikwenza ngaphandle kwamahloni ngoba uhulumeni oholwa inhlango ye ANC usebenza ngomqulu wabantu i **Freedom Charter** echazayo ukuthi:

The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth!

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of South Africans, shall be restored to the people;

The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the Banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;

All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the wellbeing of the people;

All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions

Sifuna kucace futhi ukuthi asisabi ukuvuna izinkampani kanye namabhizinisi omama ngoba sinolwazi oluthi:

Women are the most vulnerable section of society to diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

Nakhona ngaphakathi eMnyangweni, thina sinazo izinhlelo zezeMpilo ezibheke omama nje kuphela ngoba sikholelwa ekutheni *empowering women and girls is key to breaking the vicious circle of ill-health and violence*. Izinhlelo zethu zabesifazane zingaphansi kwalezihloko:

- Know your breast
- Pap smear tests
- Sexually transmitted infections
- HIV and AIDS , kubalwa ne Post Exposure Prophylaxis
- All forms of cancers
- Contraception
- Post delivery and Child health
- Termination of pregnancy

Ukunakekelwa komama kanye nemindeni nako futhi sikwenza ngoba kwaba yinto okwavunyelwana ngayo e **Kliptown ngo 1955** lapho kwathiwa uma kubuya izwe, naku okulindelekile, nokuzoqeda izifo emakhaya:

There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort!

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;

A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state;

Free medical care and hospitalization shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children;

The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;

Sekukuningi uhulumeni wabantu akwenzile ukuhlangabezana nezimfuno zabantu njengaloku abantwana kanye nomama abazithwele sebehlolwa baphinde balashwe mahhala. We have made it is our mission to restore the dignity of every human being.

As Government, we are calling on women to continue to work together and build on the gains of democracy.

Kubalulekile manje nokuthi omama bazi ngamalungelo abo ikakhulukazi lawo asekelwa ngisho nangumthethosisekelo. Kuzoba kuhle ukuthi ngoba sihlangene lapha siphinde sibonisane nangemithetho efana no **Sexual Offences and the Child Protection legislation**. Manje sithi ungabe usathula uma uhlukunyezwa noma futhi wazi ukuthi kunomuntu onukubeza abantwana.

We also need to be vigilant on clinical trials that are taking place within our communities. *Masingakhohliswa ngemali kube kuhlolwa imithi engahlelekile emizimbeni yethu. Imali masiyisebenzele; nawa amathuba avulekile.*

Masingabe sisavuma futhi ukusetshenziswa ezigamekweni ezimbi ezifana nokuhlukumeza abakuhamba kulelizwe [xenophobia].

Masibheke futhi ukuthi asidlali abezindaba bebeka isimo esingesiso ngezwe lethu kanye nangezinguquko ezidingekile ezenzekayo. Masithembe abaholi bethu abasilethela inkululeko.

Sengiphetha, ngithi masicele obaba ukuthi basinike ithuba lokudlondlobala; basihloniphe, balekelele nasekukhuliseni ngendlela izingane zesizwe ikakhulukazi lezo zabafana. This will go a long way in reducing rates of teenage pregnancy, gender based violence, social inequalities and women's vulnerability to diseases.

Sithi amadoda mawathathe isifundo ku **President Nelson Mandela** ongafihlanga ukubeka kanje:

'I make my own bed every day. I don't allow the ladies who look after me to do it. I can cook a decent meal.. I can polish a floor'

I wish you all the wisdom in your deliberations; help us with ideas on how to better serve you. Let it be business unusual as you think and recommend progressive ways in which we can make positive and lasting impact on the lives of our struggle veterans, the people with disabilities and also those with mental health problems.

I declare the summit open.