

**Address by the Leader of Government Business and MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Siboniso Duma on the occasion of the Business Breakfast with Captains of Industry  
17 May 2024**

**Programme Director – Ms Nongcebo McKenzie  
Minister of Electricity, Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa  
Speaker of eThekweni Municipality Cllr Thabani Nyawose  
KZN Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi  
Board of Trade and Investment KZN led by Edwin Mkhize  
Former Chairman – Spar Graham O’Connor  
Head of Department Dr Thandeka Ellenson  
Transnet National Port Authority Durban Acting Port Manager, Nkumbuzi Ben-Mazwi  
CEO of TIKZN Sihle Ngcamu and staff  
CEOs and representatives of various companies  
Leadership of the ANC at all levels  
Distinguished guests;  
Comrades and compatriots;**

Good Morning

I cherish the privilege to address you this morning.

From the onset, allow me programme director to indicate that it is not my intention to make a long speech.

We have convened this Business Breakfast in order to update you on the progress we are making in addressing few critical issues you have raised in the past. These issues are in relation to the following:-

1. Provision of sufficient and reliable energy for commercial use and domestic consumption;
2. Congestion in our port;
3. Addressing crime and ensuring safety and security;

***Sufficient and reliable energy***

At this stage, we wish to express our appreciation to the Minister of Electricity for the bold leadership.

We thank the Minister for setting aside time to be with us this morning.

We were together with the Minister and the Premier weeks ago at the Richards Bay industrial Development Zone.

As you all know, government has designated RBIDZ as a site for energy infrastructure.

We visited a site for the first ever Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP).

This is a planned gas-fired power plant that will include open cycle gas turbines and combined cycle gas turbines. The plant will have a maximum capacity of 3,000 megawatts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as of today 17 May 2024, South Africa has gone 52 days without experiencing load-shedding.

This is by far the longest period the country has been without load-shedding for over two years.

We must give our Minister and the Team at Eskom a round of applause.

Programme Director, from this engagement I will rush to Umvoti to be with the President Cyril Ramaphosa.

### ***Delays in our Ports***

Big business has in the past engaged President Ramaphosa and KZN government on the delays in our ports – both Durban and Richards Bay.

We remain satisfied with the progress that has been made. We will receive comprehension presentation around the work that has been done around our ports.

### ***Crime Fighting initiatives***

We pause to salute KZN Police Commissioner Lt General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi and the women and men in blue.

We have seen over the past few months successful crime fighting initiatives and major operations. We are encouraged by the role of business in the Business Against Crime initiatives across all corners of the province and major cities.

For our part as the KZN government we are strengthening the united front against crime. Months ago we allocated R243 343 million to the department of community safety and liaison. This allocation is in addition to the R765 billion budget allocated by the Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana to the peace and security cluster.

You will recall that towards the end of last year, all government departments in the province and our entities contributed R10 million towards crime fighting initiatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this Business Breakfast takes place after this province hosted successfully the Africa Travel Indaba

We are fully cognizant of the global marketing opportunities offered by hosting this event. And we will continue to work with the private sector to ensure that we continue to host national and international events.

### ***30 years of Freedom – Appreciation to Big Business***

At this stage, we do wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all of you for the important role you played over the past 30 years of our freedom and democracy.

The role of big business in strengthening our democracy needs no further elaboration.

Today we are meeting under total different circumstances than what we experienced in this province before 1994.

We are in a peaceful and thriving province where big business works well with the provincial government.

Under the leadership of the ANC, we have enduring institutional arrangements that have been created in order to foster working relations between government and Captains of industry.

We have the KZN Growth Coalition, KZN Economic Council, KZN Planning Commission, KZN Climate Change Council, BEE Advisory Council are few examples of the institutional collaboration between Business, Government and with civil society.

By and large, these structures have the responsibility to make an impact at local levels where much of government service delivery happens and where there is further opportunity for public-private sector collaboration.

We are mentioning these structures in order to contextualize the important work that has gone into building this province over the past 30 years.

We have worked well together to grow the economy of this province and to create jobs.

## **KZN leading in terms of job creation**

For instance, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey released by Statistics South Africa indicates that the KZN did extremely well in terms of job creation.

Provinces that recorded increases in employment were KwaZulu-Natal - 35 000, Gauteng - 26 000 and Northern Cape - 4 000.

You will recall that in November last year November, Stats SA singled out KZN as the largest contributor towards the national employment.

This is after we recorded the employment of up to 152 000 people from the previous quarter. As a result of our contribution, the whole country recorded around 6, 7 million of employed people.

We wish to pay tribute to all of your for the job well done.

In as much as we welcome an increase in employment, we are fully aware that there are people who remain unemployed especially in the townships and deep rural areas. It is for these reasons that we commit to ensure the development of thriving local economies.

We are aggressively positioning townships and rural areas as focal points of ANC-government interventions with the private sector also coming on board.

As the provincial government we remain we remain focused on ensuring that all government departments prioritize job creation in order to halve unemployment. Hard work and working together will continue to produce positive results.

Importantly, our approach in this province is based on an understanding that as the country, we took the route of becoming a developmental state.

Flowing from this, all of us in all spheres of government we have adopted an integrated approach in terms of driving socio-economic development.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, as we go to the election on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, we wish to assure big business that the will of the people will prevail.

We always remind the people that it was 30 years ago when Nelson Mandela voted for the first in this province after having spent 27 years in prison.

As we go to the elections, this province is once again going to be under the spotlight.

The ANC as a governing party has signed a IEC Pledge together with other political parties.

We are satisfied with peace and stability that is characterizing the election campaign.

The campaigning period is not characterised by violence and intimidation. This is a clear example of that our democracy has matured.

Let us work together to project a better image of our province among the family of nations.

We continue to emphasize that having peaceful, free and fair elections will not only be a huge boost for our democracy but will present a good image of this province and South Africa as a whole.

I thank you