

**Address by the Premier of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal Willies Mchunu on the occasion of the Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Summit held at KwaMashu Christian Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017**

Programme Director  
Mayor of eThekweni Cllr Zandile Gumede  
Members of the Executive Council Present  
Members of the Legislature Present  
Our guests' speakers  
Leaders of Faith  
Traditional Leaders  
Organized Labour  
Leaders of various sectors of civil society  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Members of the media present

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow KwaZulu-Natalians

First and foremost, I would like to welcome everybody to this important Summit. We are encouraged by the positive response from the invited guests, speakers and other stakeholders. We really appreciate you heeding the call to join us at this Summit, which has only one outcome in mind, namely to “Deepen Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration towards a prosperous, united KwaZulu-Natal and Nation Building.

At the outset, we want to express our appreciation to His Majesty for the support and guidance he has provided on this topic in the past, and also in the lead up to this Summit. We note the apology from His Majesty for not being able to with us here today. He was looking forward to this event but he unfortunately could not make it due to other pressing commitments.

The presence of representatives from the Royal Household is testimony to his determination to ensure the unity of his people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honoured Guests, let me provide you with some background and context to this Summit. This is not an event that arose from nowhere, and neither is it intended to be an event that goes nowhere.

Those of you that may have followed my comments and statements I have made over the last year, would have picked up that there are a number of matters I have expressed myself very strongly on and which I have prioritised amongst many other priorities. The Topic of this Summit is one of these priorities. I sincerely believe that the future of our Province can only be secured through unity. Unity in action and not only in words. Unity in diversity, based on the respect we have for one another, as well as on a set of common values we share and which we hope to confirm at this Summit.

Let me quickly recap some of the statements I made during the 2017 State of the Province Address. The Theme of this State of the Province Address was ““Through Unity in Action, we can move KZN to a prosperous future”. You will immediately realise that the theme of this Summit is therefore intended to unpack the Unity theme further and to allow for a robust discussion on “Who we really are as the people of KwaZulu-Natal”. How can we talk about Unity, if we do not know who we are?

Programme Director, I highlighted that we believe we have cause for deep concern about the fact that we are witnessing sinister attempts from various quarters to undermine the stability we have managed to bring about in our Province. We again witnessed this here in KwaMashu and elsewhere in our Province earlier this week.

Honourable Guests, I had committed our Provincial Government to host this Summit in the 2017 State of the Province Address, where I had asked the question if we believe it is possible for us to be united if we remain divided along lines of race, colour, language, religion, or any other belief. We can only be united if we are able to rally around a common set of values and moral standards, which transcends our own individual cultural and historic backgrounds, without losing our heritage, dignity or pride.

It is in this State of the Province Address that we undertook to rollout an integrated twin-programme of social cohesion and moral regeneration, which will focus on the reconstruction of the soul, healing the wounds and rebuilding community fibre. In our assessment, we have realized that the silo approach involving different government departments is ineffective. The central co-ordination of activities and sharing of resources will ensure maximum impact on the ground.

This Summit is the next step in ensuring that we put shoulder to the wheel to deliver this vision of a United Nation. I would also like to suggest that similar summits of this

nature be replicated in each District and Metropolitan Municipality to allow for much broader participation. These decentralised summits can then in turn resolve on how this programme will be rolled out to ward level.

I would therefore like to state upfront and unequivocally that we reject all acts of violence and xenophobic attacks such as the ones that took place here in KwaMashu and other areas in eThekweni earlier this week. These unfortunate incidents will be addressed with frankness and decisiveness not just in this Summit, but in a programmatic manner going forward. We cannot afford incidents of this nature to tarnish our reputation as a City, as a Province and for that matter as a Country.

While doing so, our thoughts are with those who were affected especially those who suffered injuries, hardship and indignity. We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of those who died. We also want to apologize unreservedly to the foreign nationals who fled their homes as a result of these attacks.

Honoured Guests, at all times we need to remind one another that it is not possible to talk about South Africa's revolution that shook the world without remembering the contribution of African giants such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Muwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Agostino Neto of Angola, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Amilcar Cabral of the island of Principe, Guinea-Bissau, and Cabo Verde, Patrice Lumumba of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and other African leaders too many to mention.

The President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency J.G Zuma once argued that an African cannot be a foreigner on the African continent. In African tradition a visitor or foreigner will always be given assistance and food, instead of being assaulted. I have travelled most of these countries where most fellow African brothers and sisters are coming from, and have been welcomed very cordially. We denounce these acts in the strongest terms.

We do not condone the beating and killing of fellow Africans since migration happens on a daily basis with many other nationals coming from other continents. You may never know when you will be landing your foot on another country.

As the saying goes, we now have to make sure that we do not only think locally, but we act globally. In our case, whatever we do as government we must also take into cognisance that we are part of the SADC region.

Let me remind you that the Vision of our Province as expressed in our Provincial Growth and Development Strategy is that we aim to be “A Prosperous Province, with a healthy, secure and skilled population, living in dignity and harmony, acting as gateway between Africa and the World.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we unpack this vision fully, which I obviously do not have time for in this address, but which I would like to encourage you to do in the Commissions tomorrow, you will have to ask your selves some uncomfortable questions, such as what does it really take:

- to be a prosperous province;
- to have a population that is and feels safe;
- to have people living in dignity and harmony; and
- for this province to be a gateway to Africa.

This Vision implies that we recognise that we are inextricably linked and that our future depends on our relationships with not just our neighbouring states and brothers and sisters, but all of them in Africa. Without them, we are a gateway to nowhere.

President Zuma, has reiterated in various meetings with African Heads of States that the people of South Africa will be forever grateful of the efforts of the OAU in supporting the liberation of our country, and ensuring the end of a brutal, oppressive and racist regime.

Recently, during the African Renaissance we expressed our commitment as the provincial government to strengthening relations and contacts with fellow Africans in African and the Diaspora.

We pointed out that as part of our search for solutions for Africa, we are committed to encourage twinning of cities, provinces and academic institutions and partnership amongst the business fraternity. We have called on academics to host regular conferences to share ideas and exchange academic staff and students and help to create an African identity of academic excellence across the boundaries.

Programme Director, it should be emphasized that the basis for our discussions over the next two days largely stems from the work done by this Provincial Government in its attempts to address previous racial tensions and intolerance to non-South African citizens. As we conduct our discussions and deliberations over the next two days we must be guided by the findings of in particular two reports released in 2016.

The first is the Report of the Special Reference Group on Migration and Community Integration in KwaZulu-Natal, which was led by Judge Navi Pillay, and the second is the Report of the Special Committee on Social Cohesion in KwaZulu-Natal, led by Professor Paulos Zulu.

MEC Pillay as the convener of the Provincial Executive Council Sub-Committee on Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration will elaborate in more detail on the findings and recommendations of these reports, but let me just highlight the key and central findings, namely that:

- The various threats to social cohesion are multi-dimensional, interrelated, and mutually reinforcing;
- Structural socio-economic challenges do not only constitute the foundation of threats to social cohesion, but also influence, perpetuate and exacerbate distinct institutional and societal threats; and that
- The realization of a more socially cohesive society is fundamentally dependent upon how KZN pursues greater socio-economic equality and how it promotes higher degrees of mutual acceptance within and between its diverse communities.

Honored guests, it is for these reasons that we have insisted that the programme of this summit and the line-up of speakers be structured to ensure that we engage all sectors and sections of our community and that we aim to emerge out of this summit with concrete programmes that will result in the creation of a united and winning nation. We need to send a strong message that KwaZulu-Natal belongs to all communities and our fate is bound together.

By, and large, this summit gives us the opportunity to strengthen the solidarity amongst the people of this province. We need to remember at all times that many communities contributed towards the creation of this province.

The introduction of the English, Afrikaner and other European cultures as the colonialists landed in the former Natal signaled the beginning of the formation of the Rainbow Nation.

In addition, the introduction of the western influence brought in Christianity, while the arrival of Indian indentured labourers introduced the Hindu, Islamic and other faiths from the east. Similarly, the Jewish and Italians have enriched the spectrum of faiths and religion in this province.

We must emerge from this summit with a clear plan detailing what needs to be done to ensure that we get as many communities as possible, across all racial lines, to participate, in activities that are aimed at celebrating our culture, our heritage and national days reflected in our calendar.

Unity can be achieved if we celebrate together national days such as Diwali, Rosh Hashanah, Eid, Umkhosi WokweShwama and Ramadan.

We remain concerned about the lack of representation of all racial groups in our national days such as Human Rights Day, Freedom Day, Heritage and Day of Reconciliation to name but a few.

Programme Director, the Day of Reconciliation on the 16<sup>th</sup> December in particular is very important in our calendar. It was previously known as Dingaan se Dag. The Day of the Covenant or Geloofte dag for the Afrikaner community. This day was renamed the Day for Reconciliation by the new democratic government.

The Leader of Government Business Sihle Zikalala once complained about how this day is celebrated with Whites on one side and Blacks on the other side.

We should all celebrate this day with the honour and dignity we reserve for our forebears and teach future generations to reconcile with our past and embrace a common future in a peaceful, united, non-racial, non-sexist, prosperous democratic society. We should create an exemplary society to be a mirror of the society we desire for all South Africa's children.

We need to acknowledge that our forebears' encounters were characterized with hostility and violent clashes. But we have to bury those past differences, hostility,

prejudice, fear and embrace a spirit of mutual respect and acceptance that we now constitute a unique nation on the African soil.

A nation of diverse people derived from many ethnic groups and nationalities, cultures, religions, faiths, languages and beliefs. Critically, we must respect each other's heroes and history. Our acceptance thereof is the basis of our strength and unity as one South African Nation.

Our Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration programmes must be integrated and must be rollout out after this summit to heal the deep scars clear visible on different communities. These scars are displayed through high levels of intolerance we often see in public spaces and others we read about in the media.

We have to fight ethnicity, prejudice and racism as it raises its ugly head in all its forms. Given the incalculable damage racism inflicts, it must be seen as one of the most serious violations of human rights. Racism is not only a threat to our democracy but it is a barrier towards transforming our country to a non-racial future.

Racism weakens the fabric of our society and erodes the trust and the optimism on which economic growth depends. It needs to be addressed with the seriousness it deserves. This Summit must therefore ensure that we have a long term plan focusing on improving race relations.

The values of non-racialism and non-sexism are central to our democratic values and principles. We must do more to guarantee that South Africa belongs to all who live in it and that we are united by our diversity.

Importantly, civil and political rights mean little if they are not accompanied by socio-economic freedom. This Summit must therefore develop a clear programme of action as guided by the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy and Plan. In the implementation of this Strategy, we have already established a sound and very functional institutional framework to drive us towards our Vision. This involves the work of 18 PGDP Action Work Groups which already accommodates representation from government, business, labour and civil society.

These Action Work Groups are focussed on the seven goals we are pursuing as a Province, namely:

- Inclusive economic growth;

- The development of our skills base;
- Human and community development;
- Strategic infrastructure development;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Good governance and policies; and
- Spatial equity.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have specifically named each of these goals to emphasise on the one hand the point that none of these goals are achievable without us succeeding with our aspirations of social cohesion and moral regeneration. On the other hand, we realise that we will not achieve social cohesion and moral regeneration if its objectives are not mainstreamed in our pursuance of each of these goals.

I am therefore proposing that we must ensure that the topic of social cohesion and moral regeneration, must be treated as a transversal matter to be attended to by each of our PGDP Action Work Groups. We already have these structures at work and all they have to do is to ensure that the outcomes of this Summit is embedded in their work going forward.

To use one example, as we strive to ensure that we grow our economy in a manner that promotes inclusive economic growth, we will understand that we are reducing economic inequality and that we are at the same time removing one of the core barriers to social cohesion and moral regeneration. This is therefore also the essence of our Radical Economic Transformation Programme.

As government we have announced in many platforms of our commitment to building an inclusive economy which creates jobs but more importantly an economy that reflects the demographics of the country. This Summit must develop concrete plans that will ensure the involvement of business and labour communities themselves on how to change the ownership, control and management of the economy.

Programme Director, one of the serious threats to social cohesion is crime. The discussions over the next two days should also be about bringing back Ubuntu in our communities.

The role of the police is critical in fighting crime, but will be enhanced by the involvement of leaders of society, communities, families and individuals. Everything



must start with the individual. The family is central to the teaching of human values of respect for the fellow human being.

Normal socialisation is about creating a human being capable of showing and sharing affection, warmth and friendship. It is such individuals that will create the caring human society that we desire. There is a strong role of the indigenous practises which aim at creating a better human being; which place an emphasis on the spiritual dimension that defines the human being as distinct from the rest of the animal kingdom.

The role of tradition in different cultures is also the creation of common practices that define people and serve as the basis of a common identity. The desire to belong defines a specific society; it is the source of strength for each society to liberate itself, and defines the behaviour and conduct of each individual who belongs to that particular association of persons.

This bond of belonging to a community means that, for the community, disapproval is one of the most effective forms of discipline. It is essential that our communities create an environment where crime and all social ills can be fought effectively.

We expect delegates to this Summit to develop Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Strategy and programme that will define the roles and responsibilities of religious and traditional leadership, as well as the elected and unelected leadership. Central to this strategy and programme is to unite all leaders across all political, religious and cultural lines.

In addition, we expect this Summit to put timeframes on the establishment of a Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Council modelled along the same lines as we have established the Council on HIV/AIDS.

We are proposing that this Council should meet regularly and be attended by members of the Provincial Executive Council, Mayors, Municipal Managers and other key stakeholders drawn from civil society, traditional and religious leadership.

The Council will be expected to monitor the implementation of this Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Strategy and programme through the structures we have established for the rollout of Operation Sukuma Sakhe. These structures already exist at provincial, district, local and ward level and could easily be mobilised for

driving the Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Programme in our Province. At all of these levels, there should be a focus on the promotion of an inter-generational dialogue programme aimed at utilizing indigenous knowledge to rebuild the fiber of society.

Critically, through this council we can form moral regeneration movements at ward levels that will be aimed at restoring our national pride in our children; to protect them and teach them the values of ubuntu, integrity, discipline and acceptance of responsibility to make them leaders for the coming generations.

Moral Regeneration Movements must also mobilize communities to stand up and unite in a public display of disapproval of all social ills such as teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, domestic abuse etc.

We say neighbours and relatives must not collude with perpetrators of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse and other crimes committed indoors for fear of disgracing families. An abuser will never cease his or her abusive actions if not confronted; instead he or she will enter into an enabling environment if the behaviour goes unpunished. Sooner or later they will turn on those who witnessed their crime and never took decisive action.

Each victim or crime survivor should find support and comfort in their communities, and each perpetrator must find rejection and pay for their disgraceful conduct. Families and communities must expose criminals and co-operate with the police and supply information that will assist the police. I want to emphasise that we have to work with our justice and crime prevention structures to ensure that perpetrators face the wrath of the law.

Family structures have always been and still are the first lines of protection and the source for defensive justice; this role is invaluable. Our fabric of society is firmly vested in and dependant on the strength of our family structures. It is not possible to raise a cohesive nation with high moral values from an unstable or broken family or household environment.

High moral standards must be promoted in the families such that communities do not buy stolen goods. Co-operation with the police should be encouraged to ensure that drug dealers and gangs that terrorises the community are exposed.

This proposed Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Council and its district, local and ward structures, can provide a platform to ensure that communities work together to eliminate conflict, create special harmony and commit towards political, religious and cultural tolerance.

Our communities must provide support for vulnerable groups and create a safe environment for those who needed protection. Churches, religious groups, traditional structures and other community organisations must emphasize and increase the support for family values, thereby creating a network that protects an environment where human rights are respected.

Traditional and other community leaders have a responsibility to prevail and maintain law and order in communities. Traditional leaders have to take a very strong stand against crimes and distortion and interpretation of culture and tradition, such as *ukuthwala* - that is kidnapping of girls by older men.

Similarly, traditional healers have to take a stand against *ukucwiya*, the mutilating or harvesting or selling human tissues for the use of medicinal preparations. The council is expected to ensure that there is ongoing interaction with traditional leaders. A message is very clear from government that procuring human tissues will certainly land the perpetrators in jail.

We say it is those who understand tradition who need to stand up and defend their traditions from criminals. Strong action and a vigilant eye by traditional leaders will assist in reducing such actions.

Programme Director, still on traditional leadership, we have seen many faction fights which are caused by minor issues that might result in many unnecessary deaths. Stock theft has caused deadly interfamily feuds. The fights occur when victims attempt to retrieve their stolen livestock, resulting in many having to abandon their homesteads and relocate.

We want to work with traditional leaders to fight against stock theft as livestock is the basis of life for rural communities, and their bank is at the kraal. Leaving stock theft unchecked is tantamount to having someone raid your bank account with impunity. We need mothers, fathers, and leaders of the community, Amakhosi and councillors to join hands in calming down crime in society and building Ubuntu.

We can win this war if we nip it in the bud. It is much easier to extinguish a fire when it has just started and the same applies to crime. A culture of teaching about the wrongfulness of crime to the young will go a long way in instilling a culture of abhorrence of this scourge

It is sometimes dangerous to intervene in fights as they might turn against you and hurt you. But going the extra mile and reporting bad things happening in the community contributes a lot in fighting evil within the community. This will reduce crime and bring peace and prosperity to communities. As communities we have the power to fight crime. We need not to be quiet about bad things that happen around us, this may result in perpetuating crime.

We need not point fingers at the police since the police are not necessarily present when crimes are committed. The police are not present when people stab each other, rob, harass; when men beat their women indoors; when men rape; when a girl child returns from school with a cell phone even though there was no money to buy even a loaf of bread and the mother won't ask questions. So it's wrong to blame the police for acts that we as a community could have prevented from occurring. It is up to us as communities to report crime and give evidence where it is needed.

Similarly, communities must work with the police to uproot the massive abuse of drugs in schools and villages. Often the drug lords are known but feared. Liquor outlets have been cautioned about adhering to the law and the conditions of their licences. Communities have been informed that they have a right to object to the issuing of liquor licences on the basis of the proximity of the outlets to schools and places of worship.

Programme Director, the religious leaders have a very important role to play. I always tell religious leaders that they have a burden upon their shoulders to turn the hearts and souls of people in order to make them avoid doing crime. This is not costly to them since it does not involve handcuffing people and taking them to court and the government feeding these people; but goes straight to their hearts.

As we draw towards conclusion I wish to emphasize that the building of a united South African nation is a duty we cannot delegate to future generations.

This is the task that our history has entrusted with us. It is also not up to government to create a society where people respect each other but it is a task of each and every

one of us to move forward and embrace the creation of a new society based on the human rights enshrined in our constitution.

It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to teach and correct those of us who still look back with nostalgia on the days of racial inequality.

Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am looking forward to the resolutions of this Summit and may we look back at this Summit in time to come as the point where as the people of this wonderful Province stood up and reclaimed our future as KwaZulu-Natalians.

I thank you