

**SHORT REMARKS**  
**BY THE PREMIER OF KWA-ZULU NATAL PROVINCE**  
**HONOURABLE SENZO MCHUNU**  
**LAUNCH OF OPERATION PHAKISA FAST TRACK INITIATIVE**  
**19 JULY 2014**

Programme Director,  
President of the Republic, His Excellency J.G Zuma;  
Members the National Cabinet and Provincial Executive Council  
Members of Parliament  
His Worship, Mayor of Ethekewini Municipality and the entire council  
Diplomatic Corps;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;  
Members of the Media

I want to express my appreciation on behalf of the provincial government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal to the President of the Republic His Excellency J.G Zuma for choosing KZN for the launch of this important initiative.

Mr President, our Provincial Plan of Action for the next Five years is in line with our 2030 vision which is to be **“A prosperous Province, with healthy secure and skilled people, acting as a gateway to Africa and the World”**.

We have acknowledged as the provincial government that in order to achieve this vision, we need to ensure speed and effectiveness in the implementation of our Provincial Growth and Development Plan which is aligned to the Nation Development Plan.

Using our PGDP, we want to build an inclusive economy that creates job opportunities for millions of our people.

I have no doubt that ***Operation Phakisa Big Fast Results Initiative*** will assist us to ensure immediate positive results especially in terms of unlock job opportunities in different sectors of our economy such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, freight and logistics, maritime, automotive, rail, and a range of other opportunities.

History has placed on the shoulders of all of us as elected representatives of our people triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

We view this launch today, Mr President, as part of efforts aimed at strengthening our programmes aimed at responding to the triple challenges.

We acknowledge as KZN government that whilst for millions of our people today is better than 20 years ago, there are millions of our people who are yet to experience significant change.

In the last election, we observed that the unprecedented support we received is a show of the confidence that our people have in the ruling party.

Similarly, we are acutely aware that the same massive support is equally an expression of high expectations that can just easily turn into frustration if not matched with delivery of services to our people.

I have found this approach of Operation Phakisa to be most exciting as it also focuses on service delivery.

There are national targets set for every department or sector for which every province has its allocated contribution in relation to service delivery.

Importantly, this initiative will merge well with our integrated approach wherein departments collaborate to contribute in the achievement of a common objective instead of competing and being obstructive to one another.

In our view, Operation Phakisa also requires participation of structures and community at grass root level.

Operation Phakisa will keep elected leaders in close contact with the people and will solve the challenge of social distance which has often been the source of community discontent and riots.

Mr President, we welcome this initiative and we will ensure that it is institutionalized by government departments including municipalities.

We will ensure that we share this initiative with other stakeholders such as the NGOs, business sector, unions, academics and leaders of society.

We recognise the role of business to grow our economy. We recognise the role of organised labour to protect and promote productivity of our labour force

We recognise the role of civil society organisations in terms of community mobilization.

We recognise the role of institutions or organisations representing specific interest groups, such as women, children, youth, and people with disabilities.

We recognise the role of our traditional leaders, religious leaders and leaders of society.

The creation and implementation of Operation Phakisa will undoubtedly go down as one of the epoch making decisions of our President and his cabinet.

We will assist all 10 district municipalities including eThekweni Metro to have a full understanding of Operation Phakisa. This exercise will ensure that local government plays a critical role in promoting economic growth, job creation and alleviation of poverty.

I thank you