**REMARKS BY PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL HON. NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE DURING THE SUMMIT OF UMKHONTO WESIZWE HELD AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE ON 04 NOVEMBER 2022**

**Programme Directors; Ms N Molai and Mr L. Mochine**

**Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr N Dlamini-Zuma;**

**MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development; Ms B.N. Sithole-Moloi**

**MEC for Sports , Arts and Culture ; Ms A Bani- Mapeni**

**Mayor of eThekwini, Cllr M Kaunda;**

**Convenor of the MKLWV; Cde D. Hato**

**Deputy Convernor; N Molai**

**Coordinator, Motttoman**

**Deputy Coordinator; N Kolati**

**The National Executive Committee of the MKLWV**

**The National Interim Committee of the MKLWV**

**The Board and Executive Committee of the newly formed Military Veterans Development Agency**

**APLA and AZANLA Leadership**

**Director General; Dr N Mkhize**

**Comrades and combatants;**

**Government Officials**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

We wish to express our sincerest appreciation for this invitation. We are always moved by pride and glory whenever we get an opportunity to engage with the combatants, commissars and veterans of our liberation movement

We feel privileged to be part of this National Convention which comes merely a few days before Umkhonto weSizwe, the gallant instrument, spear and shield of our revolution, turns a historic 61years of age.

It was on 16 December 1961, Umkhonto weSizwe (MK) was launched as an armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC), formed and sharpened at the brimstone of the terrain of struggle.

The formation of MK on the same day on which the Afrikaners defeated the Zulu army in the Battle of Blood River, was at the time the clearest and boldest declaration from our people that the people would never allow those who had won illegitimate and racist wars to ever rest.

We can never get tired of celebrating the heroic exhibitions of the gallant soldiers and fighters of Umkhonto Wesizwe and your leading role in ensuring that we finally defeat apartheid and establish a genuinely free and democratic South Africa.

As our freedom fighters you remain our moral conscience to guide us to never forget that freedom was hard won and it was won to benefit the masses of our people especially the poor and the vulnerable.

As your government we are unapologetic that as our gallant fighters you must benefit and enjoy the fruits of freedom which you paid a supreme price to bring about.

**Addressing the challenges of our time**

As the Government of KwaZulu-Natal we are committed to ensuring that Liberation War Veterans are given the necessary care and support to lead a decent life.

We are addressing fragmentation in implementing programmes and lack of accountability on interventions to support Liberation War veterans. All Provincial departments have now appointed dedicated personnel to focus on the support by each department to Liberation Veterans.

Departments have been tasked with facilitating the establishment of areas across government and industry, which can be leveraged to assist Liberation Veterans to access opportunities, markets and services. Through our various economic empowerment programmes we are setting aside and encouraging Liberation War Veterans and other War Veterans to take part in these and similar programmes of government.

When I perused the agenda I impressed by the range of economic sectors that will be explored today. The Agenda demonstrates a keen interest in the growth sectors that are new industries such as hemp, green energy, agro-processing, ICT. Indeed, there are many opportunities in digitisation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Access to finance in both government and the private sector. Government & Non-Government Socio-Economic Projects, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Heritage Arts and Culture; services sector; the built environment, renewable energy; and ICT.

Through Departments such as Public Works and Human Settlement, Agriculture, Transport and Sport, Arts and Culture will ensure that all human settlement projects there are special allocations to benefit our Liberation War Veterans.

**SUPPORT OF MILITARY VETERANS BY DEPARTMENTS (HUMAN SETTLEMENTS)**

Aloe Ridge Social Housing Project

The development consists of **952 x 2-bedroom units, situated in 2 separate villages.**

The project was OCCUPIED on the 26February 2018 by Military Veterans of all formations. 261 units were invaded

Through the DHS formalizing the process to allocate these units to the Bonafide Military Veterans through the verification process

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

**Department of Transport** reporting on empowerment andinvites Military Veterans Entities to procurement.

* The Department includes compulsory sub-contracting of 35% on all contracts from a minimum value of R10 Million where feasible in order to advance the participation of designated groups.
* The awards to Military Veterans Associations owned entities were validated with CSD as well as orders that are issued by the Department *during the 2021/22 financial year.*
* Quarter 1 Direct Procurement awarded to 5 MVA Entities to the total value of R9 554 912,20.
* Quarter 2 Indirect Procurement awarded to 2 MVA Entities to the total value of R1 000 391,76
* Quarter 3 Direct Procurement awarded to 5 MVA Entities to the total value of R 21 046 672,17.
* Quarter 4 Direct Procurement awarded to 3 MVA Entities to the total value of R331 839,45.

The Department awarded a total of 14 contracts to Military Veterans owned entities of which 5 were women owned.

* In total for the previous financial year, the Department has awarded contracts to the value of R 31 933 815,58 to entities owned by Military Veterans.
* The Department also had to redirect Budget allocations to prioritize COVID 19 resulting in the revision of set targets.
* Empowerment through training and mentorship was also affected especially during the hard lockdown, this was completely stopped as it was not part of essential services.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development supported 8 Military Veterans beneficiaries’ projects to the value of R3 763 837,00.

* Provision of Agricultural inputs to MVA Grain production to the value of R177 000,00 Financial Year 2018/19.
* Financial Year 2019/20 supported Grain production to MVA beneficiary with mechanisation and production inputs 5 ha to the value of R 62 500,00.
* MVA Benefit from the COVID-19 Disaster relief fund to procure vegetables to the value of R37 500,00 Financial Year 2020/21.
* Supported livestock production to MVA Construction of Dip Tank to the value of R350 00,00 Financial Year 202/21.
* Provided support to MVA Hydropronics Tunnels with knap sack sprayer, garden tools and inputs to the value of R 36 000,00 Financial Year 2020/21.
* Training on Poultry support given to Military Veterans Co-operative Financial Year 2016/17.
* Vegetable and Grain support to MV beneficiary in construction of Tunnel s and Production units financial Year 2015/16 – 2020/21.
* Beef production support to MV beneficiary 75 Boran Cows, 3 Boran Bulls, Summer and winter licks (11 tons) and medicine Vaccines to the value of R1 699 617,00 Financial Year 2019/20.
* Crop Production support to MV beneficiary fencing material and tractor implements to the value of R1 200 620,00 Financial Year 2020/21-2021/22

Other Beneficiaries

Name : Imbomapholoba

Activities: Purchase of Breeding Stock

75 Boran cows, winter and summer licks

Budget : R 1 699 000

Year: 2019/2020

Beneficiaries: MR Mkhize and Ms Ngcobo (2)

Name: ENGADINI

Provision of 5km fence and fertilizer

Budget: R550 000,00

Year :2021/2022

Number of Beneficiaries: 4 ( Shange, Ntuli)

**SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE**

**4.4 SUPPORT FOR MILITARY VETERANS BY MUNICIPALITIES**

* **eThekwini Municipality** HOD & Mayoral Parlouris providing support programmes within the Office of Military Veterans Directorate (MVD).
* Military Veterans Directorates comprises of 8 staff members mandated to perform Section 5 of Military Veterans Act, Provision of Benefits to deserving Military Veterans.
* **Health Support** : 40 Military Veterans were successfully entered to the DMV Database and consequently accessed health services at different Hospitals which include City, RK Khan and Victoria Hospitals.
* **Education Support: 64** MVs supported to register with Unisa/DMV education programme 2020 from 08 December 2019 to 23 December 2019. **44** are on DMV Database and **20** members are not on the Database but verified.
* **Social Relief :** More than **600** Military Veterans access food vouchers per month from South African Social Security Agency supported by MVD Office
* **Festive Celebration: 600** Military Veterans from MKMVA, APLAMVA, AZANLAMVA and few SPU,s benefited for the past 3 years from a Gala Festive party that is held by the DMV under the guidance of the Mayor. All Military Veterans who partake are issued with food voucher to the tune of R500 each and currently the voucher is raised to R1000,00 each.
* **Burial Support:** 34 Military Veterans funerals was supported by MVD Office.
* **History , Heritage and Legacy:** 16 Heritage and Legacy Events were supported in different Municipality areas. The last two events were held at INK at Inanda Sports Ground. December 16 is a Memorial Day in the archives of the ANC and MKMVA.
* **Employment: 350** Military Veterans were absorbed to eThekwini Municipal Council after having been shortlisted and were successful during interviews under Water and Sanitation, Parks and Recreation, Health, Human Settlement and Security Management, Electricity and Community participation Units.
* **Business Opportunities:** MVD office facilitated several business opportunities for Military Veterans with Go Durban contract.
* **Skills and Training: 200** Military Veterans were supported with Business negotiations skills and training from Tongaat, Lamontville, Chesterville, KwaMashu and Durban surroundings attended the training.
* **MSUNDUZI Municipality** draft Military Veterans Policy finalized.
* **MHLATHUZE Municipality** is supporting Military Veterans entities with contracts

It is not productive lamenting the economic contraction and severe job losses. As provincial government we have resolved to create an economy that is fundamentally different but that benefits all especially our Military Veterans. Our articulation is of a radical socio-economic transformation and commitment to an economy that is more inclusive, that creates more jobs, and that provides more opportunities for youth, women, the disabled and very importantly our veterans.

In our Province, the building blocks for economic recovery and reconstruction are firmly in place. One of its key targets is localisation - the production of local goods and services in everything from housing to the oceans economy.

RASET is designed to radically transform the agricultural sector in the patterns of ownership, job creation and food security. Our finest energies must be deployed to taking care of our liberation war veterans who have given the best years of your lives to the cause of South African freedom must be a priority at every level of state and society.

That objective of caring for our veterans and making you beneficiaries of radical socio-economic transformation will not happen if we are distracted.

It is from our military formations that we learnt the highest order of discipline, of command and control. Let us retrieve those finest traditions of discipline and revolutionary morality.

Many veterans are in need of support for housing, decent pension, jobs and participation in entrepreneurship.

We are committed to ensuring that the challenges facing our combatants are resolved as soon as possible. Be it housing, education support, job opportunities business support, heritage and health.

In Conclusion, Nick Bush, Head, the famous leader of Change Leadership at telecommunication company BT, speaks about the guerrilla matrix which involves among others the Agility to be responsive and flexible in order to thrive in an environment of continuous change.

“The first and most fundamental factor for agility in a business is to have a clear purpose,” says Bush. “But it’s got to be a purpose which goes beyond simply increasing shareholder value or being cost-effective because otherwise you don’t really engage people at the frontline on the shopfloor.

Just as guerrillas are spurred by a keen sense of mission, so employees enthused by a meaningful sense of purpose are more likely to feel motivated to take the steps necessary to succeed.

Bush adds that a crucial element of an agile corporation is information gathering or Market intelligence – the ability to gather information, to generate knowledge, and to act effectively based on the knowledge generated when he says: “In both business and war, the importance of knowledge superiority in terms of understanding strengths and weakness, knowing the lay of the land, as well as anticipating competitor moves and next-wave scenarios is crucial. Again, working to clear objectives helps to filter information more effectively and so provide a better basis for rapid decisions”

As you engage this morning, you will be exposed to many opportunities that will enable you to move from being liberation guerrillas to being corporate guerrillas who help us achieve the next phase of our transition which is economic liberation.

I thank you for your invitation and your attention.