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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Investment and Infrastructure Office (IIO) visits the Eastern Cape

By Sinxolo Gqala and Phiwokuhle Zokufa: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Stakeholders attending an engagement session with the IIO.

The IIO in The Presidency, in partnership with the Eastern Cape Office of the Premier, and Public Works and Infrastructure South Africa embarked on a three-day visit to the Eastern Cape – from 9 to 11 November 2020. The purpose of the visit was to monitor identified infrastructure built projects and identify investment opportunities to support the country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

The delegation met various stakeholders, including the Eastern Cape departments of Public Works and Infrastructure, and Water and Sanitation, the East London Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), the Coega IDZ, the Eastern Cape Development Corporation, the Eastern Cape Socio-economic Consultative Council and municipalities.



Dr Ramokgopa presenting the detailed implementation modalities to support the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

Port St. Johns is one of the chosen towns in South Africa for the revitalisation of small towns. The IIO presented high-value infrastructure initiatives and projects, including the eradication of mud schools, informal settlements, pit latrines and road infrastructure projects in the Eastern Cape.

The Deputy Director-General (DDG) in the Eastern Cape Office of the Premier, Mr Mahlubandile Qwase, made a presentation on the provincial catalytic projects, including the revamping and extension of the East London Port, aquaculture project, undersea cable, eradication of human settlements, small towns development, building of dams and roads. In Port St. Johns, the earmarked projects include the construction of roads and water management to prevent floods.



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The IIO Head, Dr Kgosientso Ramokgopa, outlined the detailed implementation modalities to support the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. He said a mixed model of funding and investment for the projects through public-private partnerships is key as the public purse is affected by the slow economic growth, low tax revenue and the strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. "We will have further engagements with district municipalities on their project plans and their linkages with provincial and national projects as part of the District Development Model integrated approach," added Dr Ramokgopa.

The Eastern Cape Public Works and Infrastructure MEC Babalo Madikizela called for the implementation of the projects to ensure development and transformation of people's lives.

"We need to move with speed to execute and implement these good plans into action, we must see heavy duty vehicles working and dust in the air as a symbol that the work is underway," said the MEC. The delegation also visited Duncan Village Informal Settlement and a site earmarked for a harbour in Port St Johns.



DDG Qwase presenting on the provincial catalytic projects.



DPWI Immovable Asset Management Chief Director Pumza Penxa presenting on government office precincts in the province.



MEC Madikizela delivered the opening and closing remarks.



eMambedwini Tunnels Agricultural Co-operative members.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Launch of multi-planting season in Ilembe

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Officials inspecting plants during a visit to eMambedwini Tunnels Agricultural Co-operative.

On 10 November 2020, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala, accompanied by members of the Provincial Executive Council, launched the multi-planting season at Ilembe District in Maphumulo Local Municipality. The Premier was accompanied by Operation Sukuma Sakhe District Champion, Human Settlements and Public Works MEC Peggy Nkonyeni, Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, and Arts and Culture MEC Hlengiwe Mavimbela. They were hosted by Ilembe District Mayor Siduduzo Gumede and Maphumulo Local Municipality Mayor Zibuyisile Khuzwayo-Dlamini.

Premier Zikalala highlighted the importance of agriculture in food security and economic development. The event followed a similar one at Harry Gwala District in October 2020 – held in commemoration of Food Security Month.

Citing government's Medium Term Strategic Framework 2019 – 2024, which indicates that the country needs to dedicate one million hectares of land to agrarian production, the Premier stated that KwaZulu-Natal was expected to contribute significantly to this target due to the province's geographical size, location and good soil. He expressed concern over the high levels of poverty in the province, which are being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Premier Zikalala handing over tractors bought by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The multi-planting season is an initiative of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in an attempt to eradicate high levels of food insecurity and counter under-utilisation of land and low productivity.

The delegation also visited the eMambedwini Tunnels Agricultural Co-operative, which promotes organic farming and food consumption in communities, thereby promoting the indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) and healthy lifestyles. The launch will be followed by the training of 16 farming co-operatives to champion the shift to this indigenous farming method. This will enable traditional health practitioners to preserve their skills and knowledge through IKS and plant propagation methodologies.

Due to the suitability of Ilembe District's weather conditions for commodities such as litchis, mangos, maize beans and other vegetables as well as livestock, the district will be the province's organic farming hub. Ilembe's close proximity to the Dube Tradeport makes it a prime location for agro-processing plants and manufacturing for export purposes.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Limpopo men engage on gender-based violence and Femicide (GBVF)

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo



Mr Kgomo Komo from Father the Nation Organisation speaking about raising a boy child.

On 5 November 2020, Capricorn District Municipality hosted men from different denominations and other walks of life, through the National Men's Parliament, to engage on topics related to women and children abuse, and raising a boy child. The men were reminded that there should never be an excuse for GBVF. Participants made a pledge against GBVF.



Men attending a dialogue on GBVF.

The government continues to call on the public to report GBVF using the toll free-number 0800 428 428. The GBV Command Centre at the Department of Social Development employs qualified social workers who take calls and make referrals. The emergency number is supported by a USSD, "please call me" facility: *120*7867#. Persons with disabilities can SMS the word "help" to 31531.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Learners exposed to careers in the maritime industry

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Captain Ngcobo educating learners about the maritime, the sea and how their operations work in the sea.

On 27 October 2020, a global ship navigator, Captain Londy Ngcobo, hosted six learners from five schools that participated in the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child in Durban. This programme is part of the collaboration between the Mpumalanga Department of Education, the Imbumba Foundation, the Old Mutual Foundation, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, loveLife and Old Mutual Insure.

Peggy Chiloane from Magwagwaza High School, Jabulile Zimba from KaMhola Secondary School, Sikhulile Thwala from Portia Shabangu Secondary School, Tebogo Mwale from Shongwe Boarding School, and Nosipho Mahlangu and Goodwill Shongwe from Emakhazeni Boarding School undertook an educational tour to Durban.



Learners visiting uShaka Marine World.

The learners had a lifetime opportunity of being hosted by Captain Ngcobo – Africa's first female Dredge Master, who is also the founder of Global Maritime Youth Foundation. Captain Ngcobo, through the theme "Cultivating Pure Love through the Ocean", gave a talk on the different careers that the ocean has to offer.

The learners also went on a boat cruise to experience a glimpse of Captain Ngcobo's daily job. They visited uShaka Marine World for a wet and wild sea world experience and to witness the Dolphin Show. "This was a great opportunity for our learners. We are confident that the educational tour will broaden their knowledge base and inspire them to pursue studies in maritime. We wish them well in their studies and hope that they will also inspire others," said Mpumalanga Education MEC Bonakele Majuba.