

Vuk'uzenzele



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Local government holds transformative power

SOCIO-ECONOMIC transformation is at the top of government's agenda yet the power to bring about change does not rest solely in its hands. The drivers of change should be located at national, provincial and local government level, making a visible difference in the lives of the citizens government serves.

Albert Pule

Municipalities should become centres of radical socio-economic transformation to have a positive effect on the lives of citizens.

"We need to see radical socio-economic transformation in local government," said President Jacob Zuma, addressing the Third Presidential Local Government Summit held in Midrand on 6 April 2017.

"We mean the fundamental change in the structure, systems, institutions and patterns of ownership, management and control of the economy in favour of all South Africans, especially the poor, the majority of whom are African and female," explained the President.

President Zuma said municipalities must play a role in developing small businesses and entrepreneurs.

"They must revitalise and mainstream township economies by supporting the development of township enterprises, cooperatives



President Jacob Zuma addressing the 3rd Presidential Local Government Summit in Midrand

and SMMEs that will produce goods and services that meet the needs of township residents.

"Township entrepreneurs must be used to produce food, such as bread for school nutrition and hospitals, school uniforms and police uniforms, and furniture for government offices."

The President also urged municipalities to work hard to raise the living standards and quality of life of all the

people in their areas and highlighted the importance of the delivery of crucial services, such as roads, human settlements and sanitation.

"They must include effective public transport infrastructure development, as well as new integrated and sustainable human settlements and post-apartheid cities that are more connected, liveable, smart and green.

"The renewal of old towns, inner-city regeneration as

well as township renewal must be key focus areas of our municipalities."

President Zuma also highlighted that it is important that the three spheres of government work together to deliver services.

"All spheres must work together to ensure that all township roads and streets are tarred, that the bucket system is eradicated and that all hostels are turned into family units.

"If we do this, we will bring millions of township residents into the mainstream economy, hence the need to revamp economic infrastructure and improve these areas."

Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Des van Rooyen said local government plays an important role in delivering services to the people.

"Critical to local government's mandate is the requirement that they work to improve the lives of all the citizens in their municipality.

"The improvement of the peoples' lives can be achieved through the provision of basic services, development and growth of the economy, recognising and harnessing the skills potential of people living in the municipality, job creation, and mobilising the people to make their own contribution to improve their living conditions," said Min



Educators are teaching the business of business

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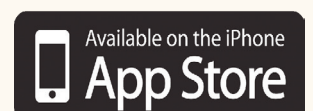
UNITE TO END TB & HIV

SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS TAKING ACTION

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In all our localities, wherever they may be, we must rise now and destroy apartheid organs of government that are used to hold us in bondage. We make this call to all Black people – African, Indian and so-called Coloureds.

- Oliver Tambo.



Image: <http://www.youthvillage.co.za>

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NSP yi ta lwa na HIV, TB na tiSTI

NSP I XIBOHO XA NYIMPI yo lwa na ntungu wa HIV, TB na STI. Kungu leri ri vulavula hi matshalatshala ya mfumo yo hunguta hi matimba xihumelelo xa swiyimo leswi, ku herisa ku tlulela ka HIV ku suka eka manana ku ya eka n'wana ni ku herisa mitluleto yintshwa exikarhi ka tithugamama na vabvana.

Noluthando Motswai

Kungu ra Maendlelo ra Rixaka Rintshwa (NSP) eka HIV, Vuvabyi bya Rifuva (TB) na mitluleto ya vuvabyi bya swa masangu (ti-STI) ri languteriwile ku hunguta swihumelelo swa TB hi 30 wa tipesente ni ku hunguta mitluleto yintshwa ya HIV hi 60 wa tipesente.

Xandla xa Phuresidente Cyril Ramaphosa u tivisile leswi eku simekiweni ka NSP 2017-2022 eBloemfontein ku nga ri khale.

Kungu leri ri tala ku famba malembe ya ntlhanu, naswona kungu leri hundzeke ri fikile emakumu eku heleni ka Nyenyankulu 2017.

Xandla xa Phuresidente Cyril Ramaphosa u vule leswaku NSP yi ni vuxaka byikulu na Kungu ra Nhluvukiso wa Rixaka, leswi tisaka nyimpi yo lwa na HIV, TB na tiSTI eka nyimpi yo angarhela ya nhluvukiso wa ikhonomi na wa vanhu.

"Hi ku tirha swin'we, hi lava ku hunguta xihumelelo xa TB hi kwalomuya ka 30 wa tipesente, ku

suka eka 450 000 ku ya eka 315 000. Hi fanele ku hunguta hi matimba mitluleto yintshwa ya HIV hi 60 wa tipesente ku suka eka 270 000 hi 2016 ku ya ehansi ka 100 000 hi 2022."

U engete a vula leswaku mfumo a wu lava ku herisa ku tlulela ka HIV ku suka eka manana ku ya eka n'wana ni ku herisa mitluleto yintshwa eka tithugamama na vabvana ku suka eka 2 000 vhiki rin'wana ni rin'wana ku ya ehansi ka 800.

N'waxemu Xandla xa Phuresidente u simekile pfhumba ro sivela HIV eka vabvana na tithugamama.

Kwalomuya ka 2 000 wa mitluleto yintshwa ya HIV yi khomile vabvana na tithugamama va malembe ya le xikarhi ka 15 na 24 eAfrika-Dzonga vhiki rin'wana na rin'wana.

Pfhumba ra *She Conquers* ri le ku humelerisiweni tanihi xiphemu xa matshalatshala yo hunguta mitluleto ya HIV na switandzhaku swa yona.

"*She Conquers* hi pfhumba le ri kongomisiwile eka ku hunguta mitluleto ya HIV, ku hunguta ku tika ka tithugamama, ku tshamisisa vantshwa exikolweni, ku herisa

madzolonga ya swa le masangwini na ya rimbewu ni ku tumbuluxa mikateko ya ikhonomi eka vants'hwana."

NSP yi na swikongomelo leswi nga le rivaleni

Xandla xa Phuresidente Ramaphosa u vule leswaku NSP yi langu tanile na swikongomelonkulu swa nhungu swo lwa na HIV, TB na tiSTI.

- Xikongomelo xo sungula i ku susumeta ku sivela ni ku hunguta mitluleto yintshwa ya HIV, TB na tiSTI.
- Xikongomelo xa vumbirhi i ku hunguta xiyimo xa vuvabyi na mafu hi ku nyika vutshunguri bya HIV, TB na STI, nhlaysiso na milandzeleriso ya nseketelo wa hinkwavo.
- Xikongomelo xa vunharhu i ku fikelela vaakatiko hinkwavo va nkoka na lava va nga sirhelelekangiki hi ku ngehelele loku kongomisiweke eka vaakatiko hi ku hambahambana ka vona.
- Xikongomelo xa vumune i ku lulamisa vahangalasi va mi-

HLANGANANI KU HERISA TB NA HIV

VARHANGERI VA AFRIKA VA TEKA GOZA

tluleto ya HIV, TB na STI.

- Xikongomelo xa vuntlhanu i ku dzima timitsu to lwa na HIV, TB na tiSTI eka milawu na maendlelo ya timfanelo ta ximunhu.
- Xikongomelo xa vutsevu i ku tlakusa vurhangeri na vutihlamluleri bya hinkwavo leswaku ku lwiwa na HIV, TB na tiSTI hi ndlela leyi yaka emahlweni.
- Xikongomelo xa vukombo i ku kondletela switirhisiwa leswi seketelaka ku humelela ka swikongomelo swa NSP ni ku tiyisisa tinhlamulo leti yaka emahlweni.
- Xikongomelo xa vunhungu i ku tiyisa timhakankulu leti nga ta tisa nhluvukiso wo humelerisa swikongomelo swa NSP.

Ku cinca mahanyelo swi fanerile

"Hi tile haleno ku ta tiyisisa leswaku norho wa rixaka leri pfumalaka AIDS wu le kusuhi ni ku fikelelwa. Hi tile haleno ku ta kombisa xiboho xa hina xo aka misava leyi pfumalaka ku vaviseka loku tisa-

ka hi vuvabyi byo siveleka ni ku tshunguleka bya TB."

"Ha swi tiva leswaku ku tluletiwa HIV na TB a hi xigwevo xa rifu. Ha swi tiva leswaku nkarhi wa hina wo antswa wo hlula ku tluletiwa hi mahahlwa ya HIV na TB wu le mavokweni ya hina ku cinca mahanyelo leswaku hi herisa ku hangalaka ka ntluleto."

Ku simekiwa ka Kungu ra Maendlelo ra Rixaka 2017-2022 i nkarhi wa nkoka wo lwa na ntungu wa HIV, TB na STI eAfrika-Dzonga.

Xiga xa NSP lexintshwa xi ri: "Magoza ya Hina a ya Hlayiwi", leswi ku nga xikombelo eka ma-Afrika-Dzonga hinkwavo ku teka magoza yo humelerisa swikongomelo swa Kungu leri.

Nan'waka, mfumo wu kombela ngopfungopfu varhangeri va miganga ku fana na swirho swa palemende, swirho swa tipalemende ta swifundzankulu, vakhanselara, varhangeri va xintu, varhangeri va mabindzu, varhangeri va swa vukhongereri na vanhu hinkwavo hi ku angarhela ku tinyiketa ku lwa na ntungu lowu ni ku vulavula na miganga ya vona. **■**

Vaccinations save lives

DON'T WAIT ... VACCINATE

BABY & CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

BIRTH	Oral Polio and BCG
6 TO 8 WEEKS	Oral Polio and BCG
10 TO 12 WEEKS	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis Haemophilus influenzae type B and Inactivated Polio Hepatitis B Rotavirus Pneumococcal Conjugated
14 TO 16 WEEKS	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis Haemophilus influenzae type B and Inactivated Polio Hepatitis B Rotavirus Pneumococcal Conjugated
9 MONTHS	Measles
12 MONTHS	Hepatitis A, Pneumococcal Conjugated
15 TO 18 MONTHS	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
18 MONTHS	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis Haemophilus influenzae type B and Inactivated Polio Hepatitis A (booster)
6 YEARS	Measles, Mumps, Rubella Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis and Inactivated Polio
12 YEARS	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (if missed at 6 years) Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis and Inactivated Polio (if missed at 6 years)

Vaccinating children is the best way to prevent serious illnesses, such as polio, diphtheria, mumps, measles and tetanus," says Dr Vuyo Gqola, Government Employees Medical Scheme Executive: Healthcare Management.

"When people get vaccinated against a particular disease, they are not only protecting themselves, but are also helping to protect their communities. This is because the more people who are immune to a disease, the slower it spreads."

Vaccinations make sense

Dr Gqola says the medical progress that has been made in the prevention of diseases through vaccinations is truly remarkable. Measles and polio are now

relatively uncommon thanks to vaccination programmes.

Smallpox is a highly infectious viral disease. It was deadly for a large proportion of the people who contracted it. It killed as many as 500 million people in Europe alone last century.

"Through global vaccination efforts, naturally-occurring smallpox was eliminated in 1977 with the last case having been diagnosed in Somalia," says Dr Gqola.

In 2014, the South African Department of Health rolled out a school-based Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for the prevention of cervical cancer, aimed at all girls aged nine years and older in grade four.

"There is an established link between certain strains of HPV and cervical cancer, which is

a leading cause of death for women in South Africa. The girls who have received the HPV vaccine will have a considerably reduced risk of developing cervical cancer and several other types of cancer."

"We are likely to start seeing the positive impact of this campaign in the next 15 to 20 years, when the first generation of girls to have received the HPV vaccination will reach the age where these types of cancer are more likely to develop.

"The risks associated with vaccinations are extremely rare, and are hugely outweighed by the risks of developing the disease itself if one is not vaccinated," Dr Gqola says. **■**

Source: Government Employees Medical Scheme

Phurojeke Leyikulu ya Tindlu yi Pfuriwa Sweswi

PHUROJEKENKULU YA TIKO ya tindlu ta vaaki leyi kumekaka eWestgate, eKwaZulu-Natal, yi na 952 wa tiyuniti ta tindlu leti nyikaka vutshamo bya rhente."



■ Phuresidente Jacob Zuma na Holobywa Vanhu Lindiwe Sisulu va simekile phurojekenkulu ya tiko ya tindlu ta vanhu ePietermaritzburg.

Hlengiwe Ngobese

Loko Phuresidente Jacob Zuma a nyikile yindlu yintshwa eka Caroline Carstens, 20, muakatiko loyi wa le Westgate a nga swi kotanga ku tikhoma hi ntsako, a vula leswaku mfumo wu hetisise norho wa yena wo kurisa vana va yena endlwini yo xonga.

"Ku vile norho wa mina wo va ni vun'wini bya yindlu yo xonga siku rin'wana kambe a ndzi nga ehleketi leswaku norho lowu wu ta va ntiyiso hi nkarhi lowu nga hetiki mbilu". Ndza khensa eka mfumo ku hi nyika tindlu to xonga," a vula.

Carstens hi un'wana wa 3 000 wa vavuyeriwa lava nyikiweke tindlu tintshwa loko Phuresidente Zuma a pfula phurojeke ya vaaki leyikulu eWestgate, Pietermaritzburg, eKwaZulu-Natal hi ti1 Dzivamisoko 2017. Phurojeke yi languteriwile ku va ni nxavo wa kwalomuya ka R4 wa timiliyoni, leswi katsaka mpfuno wa timali ku suka eka xiyenge xo ka xi nga ri xa mfumo.

Un'wana wa vavuyeriwa i Nomkhosi Msimang, 30, loyi a tirhaka tanihi xichudeni xa muongori eXibendlhele xa Grace. U vule leswaku loko a kuma mahungu yo tsariwa hi foni ya le nyongeni yo n'wi hoyozela ni ku n'wi tivisa leswaku xikombelo xa yena xi humelerile, a nga tshemhanga mhaka leyi.

"Xikwembu xanga! Sweswi ndzi khomile swilotlela swa yindlu ya mina. Mfumo lowu wu le ku antswiseni ka vu-

tomi bya MaAfrika-Dzonga hakunene. Ndzi twile hi ta phurojeke leyi enhlengelenweni ya muganga, hiloko ndzi ku eka mina n'wini 'ndza ha teka nkarhi lowu ndzi endla xikombelo'. A ndzi nga ehleketi leswaku u nga kuma yindlu ku suka eka mfumo loko u nga ri na lava u va tivaka, kambe ndzi yi kumile. A ndzi hakelanga na peni wo tshuka ku kuma vutshamo lebyi byo saseka. A va lava phepha ra vumbhoni bya muholo na phepha ra vumbhoni bya vutshamo ntsena ku endla xikombelo. Ndzi khensa mfumo ku va wu cincile vutomi bya mina," a vula.

Westgate yi simekiwa

Loko a vulavula eku simekiweni ka tindlu ta vaaki eWestgate, Phuresidente Zuma u vule leswaku loko yi herile, phurojeke leyi yi ta nyika kwalomuya ka 1 000 wa tiyuniti ta tindlu eka kwalomuya ka 4 000 wa vavuyeriwa.

"Eka Mbulavulo wa Xiyimo xa Rixaka hi 2010 na 2012, ndzi vulavurile hi vatirhi va miholo ya le xikarhi lava kayakayaka ku fikelela vutshamo byo xonga naswona lebyi fikelelekaka bya vona vinyi ni mindyangu ya vona hikuva va nga ri ni swilaveko swo xava tindlu leti nga ni mpfuno wa subusidi kumbe ta nxavo wa mpfuno wa timali ta le bangini.

"Ku akiwa ka Phurojeke ya Tindlu ta Vaaki ya le Westgate i nhlamulo thwii, ya mitlholtho yoleyo. Swi nyika nkateko eka vantshwa va hina lava tirhaka ku tshama evutshan'wini byo

xonga naswona lebyi kumekaka etindzhawini letinene, hi hala tlhelo swi ri karhi swi tlakusa vun'we bya vanhu ni ku tlhatlha pulaninkulu ya matshamelo ya xihlawuhlawu.

"Phurojeke leyi yi tshama vanhu lava hakelaka rhente hi 100% naswona lava holaka muholo wa ndyangu wa le xikarhi ka R1 500 na R7 500. Yi avanyisiwile hi tikamara to tlela timbirhi, xitanga lexi pfulekeke na kamara ro dzumba eka rona.

"Hi mfumo lowu nga ta ka wu nga wisi ku kondza muakatiko un'wana ni un'wana wa Afrika-Dzonga a tshama endhawini yo xonga. Xiboho xa hina i ku vuyisela xindzhuti xa vanhu va hina ematshan'wini ya xona hi ku tirhisa vutshamo bya vanhu", ku vula Phuresidente Zuma.

Malokixi yantshwa etikweni hinkwaro ra SA

Phuresidente Zuma u vule

leswaku mfumo wu ta ya emahlweni wu rhangisa ku nyika tindlu eka vanhu lava nga swela. Lava va katsa mindyangu leyi rhangeleke hi vana, vatsoniwa na vadyuhari.

"Ndzi tlhele ndzi khumbheka hi wanuna un'wana wa mutsoniwa, wa xivindzi ku nga Tatana Maphumulo ku suka eVulindlela, loko a yisiwa endlini ya yena yintshwa leyi ya ha ku akiwaka. Ku va na yindlu leyi yi xongeke swi na mbuyelo wa mahanyelo ni ikhonomi. Leswi swi katsa vutomi byo antswa, ndhawu yo tihanyela swa wena exihundleni leswi kalaka emukhukhwini wa kamara rin'we, ndhawu leyi sirhelelekeke na timfanelo ta vutshamo.

"Mfumo wa xifundzankulu xa KwaZulu-Natal wu akile kwalomuya ka 500 000 wa tiyuniti ku suka hi 1994. Leswi swi vula kwalomuya ka timiliyoni timbirhi ta vavuyeriwa lava vutomi bya vona byi cinceke byi ya emahlweni byi antswa hi mfumo lowu. Ku nyikiwa ka tindlu ku suka hi 1994 ku endlile leswaku ku va na malokixi yantshwa lama tumbuluxiweke etikweni. Lama ya katsaka tindzawu to fana na Cosmo City eGauteng, Klarinet eMpumalanga, Cornubia eKwaZulu-Natal, Zanemvula eKapa Vuhumadyambu na N2 Gateway eKapa Vupeladyambu. Ku engetela eka leswi, nhlayo ya miganga leyi a yi khiriwile khale ya le makaya na yona yi vuyeriwile swinene. Yin'wana ya tiphurojekenkulu leti leyi cinceke xiyimo xa mahanyelo ya vanhu na ikhonomi ya vona

ematikoxikaya i Vulindlela laha Pietermaritzburg, leyi langu-teriweke ku nyikiwa ku tlula 20 000 wa tiyuniti ta tindlu to xonga loko yi ta hela, leswi nga ta nyika vaaki vo tlula 100 000 wa tindhawu to xonga. Hambiswiritano, ka ha ri na swo tala leswi faneleke ku endlwa," ku vula Phuresidente Zuma.

Phuresidente Zuma u khutaza vavuyeriwa ku teka tindlu leti tanihi michumu ya nkoka.

"Mfumo wa xifundzankulu xa KwaZulu-Natal wu akile kwalomuya ka 500 000 wa tiyuniti ku suka hi 1994. Leswi swi hi nyika kwalomuya ka timiliyoni timbirhi ta vavuyeriwa lava vutomi bya vona byi cinceke byi ya eku antsweni hikokwalaho ka mfumo lowu."

"Tindlu leti i ta n'wina. Ndza mi kombela leswaku mi nga xavisi tindlu ta n'wina. Hi lemukile mahanyelo yo ka ya nga amukeleki laha vavuyeriwa va tindlu ta mfumo va xavisaka tindlu ta vona ivi va tlhela va hlupheka nakambe. Mi fanele ku swi tiva leswaku mi ni nkarhi wun'we ntsena ku fikelela ku kuma yindlu. Loko mi xavisa yindlu ya n'wina, a mi nga wu kuma nkateko wun'wana wo endla xikombelo xa yindlu nakambe," a vula. ■



■ Phurojeke ya tindlu ya le Westgate yi languteriwile ku nyika kwalomu ka 1 000 wa tiyuniti ta tindlu, yi ta tshamisa kwalomu ka 4 000 wa vavuyeriwa loko yi fikelele emakumu.

Hofisi ya timhaka ta xikaya yi thyiwa vito ra Tutu



Phuresidente Jacob Zuma a ri na khale ka Holobye wa Timhaka ta Matiko Xikaya Malusi Gigaba va xeweta vahlapfa hi nkarhi wa riendo ro antswisa ndhawu.

Allison Cooper

A hi khale Phuresidente Jacob Zuma a ha ku simeka nakambe hofisi ya timhaka ta xikaya ya le Marabastad kutani yi thyiwa hi vuntshwa vito ra Senthara ya Vuamukeli bya Vahlapfa ya Desmond Tutu.

Hi nkarhi wa nongonoko wa rhadiyo na Phuresidente Jacob Zuma, hi ku tirhisa vuhlanganisi bya GCIS sweswinyana, u

vule leswaku wa ha ku endzela Marabastad exikarhi ka doroba ra Pitori, ku simeka hi vuntshwa ni ku thya hi vuntshwa tihofisi ta timhaka ta xikaya.

“Hi tsakile ku vona leswaku senthara leyi yi thyiwa vito hi vuntshwa ra MuAfrika-Dzonga wo hlawuleka loyi a lweleke vululami, ndzingano, timfanelo ta ximunhu na ntshuxeko handle ko karhala.

“Mfumo wu hoyozela ku tinyiketa na nseketelo wa Nhlango wa Ndzhaka ya

Desmond na Leah Tutu ku thya vito hi vuntshwa ka Senthara ya Marabastad tanihi Senthara ya Vuamukeli bya Vahlapfa ya Desmond Tutu,” ku vula Phuresidente.

Hi 2015 Phuresidente u yile eMarabastad tanihi xiphemu xa Phurogireme ya Phuresidente yo Landzelerisa ya Siyahlola.

“Loko ndzi ya ehofisini ya timhaka ta matiko xikaya a ku ri na ntshungu wa vanhu ehandle naswona ndzi va nyi-

kile nkarhi wo vulavula na mina. Va boxile timhaka to hlaya naswona ndzi swi vonile leswaku xiyimo a xi nga tshamisekangi na katsongo. Ndzi yile endzeni ka yindlu ndzi ya vona, kutani ndzi lemuka leswaku timhaka leti a va vulavula hi tona a ti lava ku yisiwa emahlweni,” ku tiyisisa Phuresidente.

Mithlotlho leyi tokotiweke eMarabastad a yi katsa ku kayivela ka vatirhi vo ringanela va vuswikoti, switirhisiwa swa thekinoloji ya timhaka swo nonoka, switirhisiwa swo hlayisa timhaka leswi nga enelangiki, mitolovelovelo ya vufambisi ya xiyimo xa le hansi na tindzawu ta matirhelo ta xiyimo xa le hansi eka matirhelo ya tikhasimende na vatirhi. Senthara leyi a yi soriwa hi ku lumbetiwa ka matirhelo ya manyala, mitila yo leha, ntshungu wa vanhu na vugevenga bya mitlawa.

Tindhawu ta mani na mani sweswi ti khavisiwile nakambe na ku pfuxetiwa hi vuntshwa, ku katsa na mifungo, tikhawuntara na timboni, na sisiteme ya vusirheleri yintshwa naswona khumbi ra gezi na rona ri ngenisiwile. Ku nghenelela ka nkoka

kun'wana ku katsa ku endliwa ka tisisiteme na tindlela tintshwa, to fana ni tindlela to buka to tilawula hi toxo na swikombelo swa xielekitironiki, mahlayiselo ya matsalwa lama antswisiweke na ku vulavurisana na swiyenge leswi khumbhekaka loku yaka emahlweni.

“Hi tsakile leswaku senthara leyi yi thyiwile vito ra MuAfrika-Dzonga wo hlawuleka loyi a lweleke vululami, ndzingano, timfanelo ta ximunhu na ntshuxeko handle ko karhala.”

Xikongomelo xa mfumo i ku herisa vugevenga na manyala eka sisiteme ni ku sivela vugevenga bya mitlawa ku va byi tirhisa vahlapfa lava endlaka swikombelo swo tshama laha kaya ku endla mali hi ku va nyika mali yo ba mati tingwenya ti etlela leswaku va kuma pfumelelo, leswi vekaka tiko eka nxungeto wukulu. ▀

Government takes higher education seriously

Allison Cooper

During a radio interview with President Jacob Zuma, via a GCIS link-up, he engaged listeners of different community radio stations across South Africa simultaneously.

An issue raised was that of financial assistance for higher education students.

The President said that he initially called a meeting with student and university leaders and the Department of Higher Education to discuss the issues around high tuition fees and the fact that those from disadvantaged backgrounds cannot afford to pay them.

“It was clear to me at the time that the issues at hand couldn't be resolved in the meeting due to their complex-

“No student whose combined family income is below R600 000 per annum will face fee increases at universities and TVET colleges for 2017.”

ity. Work needed to be done and I therefore appointed the Heher Commission of Inquiry into Higher Education and

Training to look into the matter,” he said.

The commission will complete its work by June this year. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Higher Education, led by Minister Radebe, is engaging all stakeholders to discuss the issues. Civil society initiatives involving business, churches and other organisations have created space for a diversity of options to be considered.

The President has invited stakeholders to participate in processes that are underway so that all views are heard.

Government recognises the needs articulated by the students, said Finance former Minister Pravin Gordahn in

his recent Budget Speech.

“As the economy grows, we will be able to do more to finance an expansion in tertiary education opportunities and improvements in student funding,” he confirmed.

Government increased its higher education budget allocations by R32 billion in last year's budget and the 2016 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, and has now added another R5 billion.

“No student whose combined family income is below R600 000 per annum will face fee increases at universities and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges for 2017.

“All poor students who

applied and qualified for National Student Financial Aid Scheme awards, and who have been accepted by a university or a TVET college, will be supported,” Minister Gordahn said.

Given the magnitude of student funding requirements, it is imperative that government develops a clear roadmap towards a better higher education and training system.

The President assured the radio audience that the commission's report will indicate how society will achieve access, opportunity, financing and support for students in the university and further education sectors. ▀