

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.

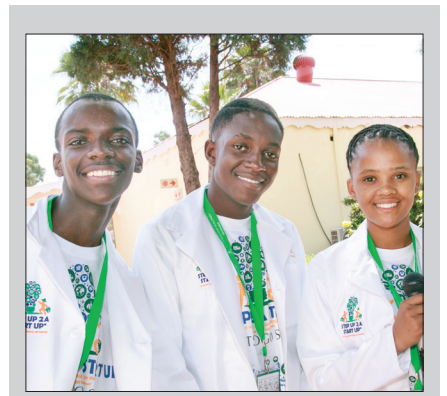
"All spheres must work together to ensure that all township roads and streets are tarred, that the bucket system is eradicated and that all hostels are turned into family units.

"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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I-NSP ilwa ne-HIV, i-TB nezifo ezosulela ngokwabelana ngesondo

ISICWANGCISO SOBUCHULE SESIZWE (I-NSP) esitsha silinyathelo eliphambili lokulwa nezifo ezingubhubhane iNtsholongwane kaGawulayo (i-HIV), isifo sephepha (i-TB) kunye nezifo ezosulela ngokwabelana ngesondo (i-STI). Sivakalisa amalinge karhulumente okunciphisa ngamandla ezi zifo, ukuphelisa usuleleko lwe-HIV olusuka kumama luye emntwaneni nokuphungula inani lamantombazana afikisayo nabantu basetyhini abasebatsha abosulelwa okokuqala yi-HIV.

Noluthando Motswai

I-NSP entsha ye-HIV, i-TB kunye nee-STI kulindeleke ukuba inciphise inani labo bane-TB ngama-30% ize yehlise inani labo bosulelwa okokuqala yi-HIV ngama-60%.

USekela-Mongameli uCyril Ramaphosa usanda ukubhengeza okukumsitho wokumiselwa kwe-NSP 2017–2022 eBloemfontein kutsha nje. Esi sicwangciso ngokwesiqhelo silungiselelwa ixesha leminyaka emihlanu. Isicwangciso sokugqibela siphela ekupheleni kweyoKwindla yowama-2017.

USekela-Mongameli uRamaphosa uthi i-NSP ihambelana ngqo nesicwangciso seSizwe soPhuhliso (i-NDP), ukwenza idabi lokulwa i-HIV, i-TB kunye nee-STI, libe yinxalenye yedabi elibanzi lophuhliso lwezoqoqosho nolwenzentlalo.

“Sisebenzisana, silwela ukunciphisa inani labantu abane-TB kangangama-30% ubuncinane, lisuke kuma-450 000 liye kuma-315 000. Kufuneka silunciphise ngamandla inani labo bosulelwa yi-HIV okokuqala nga-

ma-60% lisuke kuma-270 000 ngowama-2017 liye ngaphantsi kwama-100 000 ngowama-2022.”

Wongeze wathi urhulumente ufuna ukuluphelisa usuleleko lwe-HIV olusuka kunina luye emntwaneni aze anciphise inani lamantombazana afikisayo nabantu basetyhini abasebatsha abosulelwa yi-HIV okokuqala lisuke kuma-2 000 kwiveki nganye libe ngaphantsi kwama-800.

Kulo nyaka uphelileyo uSekela-Mongameli umisele iphulo lokuthintela i-HIV kubantu basetyhini abasebatsha namantombazana afikisayo.

Ngabantu basetyhini abasebatsha namantombazana afikisayo aminyaka yobudala iphakathi kwe-15 nama-24 abangama-2 000 abosulelwa yi-HIV okokuqala ngeveki eMzantsi Afrika.

Kuphunyezwa iphulo elibizwa i-*She Conquers* njengenxalenye yelinge lokunciphisa inani labo bosulelwa yi-HIV kunye neziphumo zoko.

“Iphulo i-*She Conquers* ligxile ekunciphiseni inani labo bosulelwa yi-HIV, linciphise ukumitha kwamanantombazana aselula, ukugcina abantu abatsha besezikolweni, ukuphelisa ukuxhatshazwa kwabantu ngo-

kwesondo nangokobuni kwakunye nokudalela abantu abatsha amathuba ezoqoqosho.”

I-NSP ineenjongo ezicacileyo

USekela-Mongameli uCyril Ramaphosa uthi i-NSP iza kugxila kwiinjongo eziphambili zobuchule ezisibhozo okulwa i-HIV, i-TB nee-STI.

- Injongo yokuqala kukukhawulezisa uthintelo ukuze kunciphe inani labo bosulelwa okokuqala yi-HIV, i-TB kunye nee-STI.
- Injongo yesibini kukunciphisa ukugula nokusweleka ngokubonelela ngonyango lwe-HIV, i-TB kunye nolwe-STI, inkathalelo nokuxhasa wonke umntu ukuze asebenzise amayeza ngokufanelekileyo.
- Injongo yesithathu kukufikelela kubo bonke abantu abasesichengeni sokosulelwa zizifo ngokusebenzisa amanyathelo okungenelela alungiselelwe najolise ngqo kwiimeko zaba bantu.
- Injongo yesine kukuhlangabezana noonobangela bosuleleko lwe-HIV, i-TB kunye nolwe-STI ngokwenzentlalo nangokweemeko

MASIMANYANE SILWE I-TB NE-HIV

IINKOKELI ZOMZANTSI AFRIKA ZITHATHA AMANYATHELO

abaphila phantsi kwazo abantu.

- Injongo yesihlanu kukulungelelanisa amalinge okulwa ne-HIV, i-TB kunye nee-STI nemigomo nemigaqo yamalungelo oluntu.
- Injongo yesithandathu kukukhuthaza ubunkokheli nokwabelana ngoxanduva lokuphendula ukwenzela indlela yokuhlangabezana ne-HIV, i-TB kunye nee-STI ezinzileyo.
- Injongo yesixhenxe kukuqokelela izixhobo zoncendo zokuncedisa ukuze kufezekiswe iinjongo ze-NSP nokuqinisekisa ukuba amanyathelo okulwa ezi zifo awawo sithubeni.
- Injongo yesibhozo kukomeleza ulwazi lobuchule ukuqhuba inkqubo ebhekisele eku-phunyezweni kweenjongo ze-NSP.

Ukutshintsha indlela yokuziphatha kuyafuneka

“Silapha ngokuza kungqiniseka ukuba iphupha lesizukulwana esingenaye tu uGawulayo selikufutshane. Silapha ngokuza kubonakalisa ukuzimisela kwethu ekwakheni ihlabathi elinga-

thwaxwa zizifo ezithintelekayo nezinyangekayo ezifana ne-TB.”

“Siyayazi ukuba ukosulelwa yi-HIV kunye ne-TB akuthethi ukuba uza kufa. Siyayazi ukuba elona thuba lethu lingcono lokoyisa ukosulelwa yi-HIV kunye ne-TB kuxhomekeke kutshintsho lwendlela yokuziphatha ukunqanda ukwanda kwenani labo bosulelwa zezi zifo.”

Ukumiselwa kwe-NSP yowama-2017–2022 kubaluleke kakhulu kumalinge oMzantsi Afrika okulwa nobhubhane we-HIV, i-TB kunye nee-STI.

Islogani esitsha se-NSP sithi: “AmaNyathelo Wethu Mawabe neNtsingiselo” nesilikhwelo lokuba bonke abantu baseMzantsi Afrika mabadlale indima ekuphumezeni iinjongo eziphambili zesi sicwangciso.

Kulo nyaka, urhulumente ugxile ikakhulu kwiinkokheli zoluntu ezifana namalungu epalamente, amalungu eepalamente zamaphodno, ocebba, iinkokheli zemveli, iinkokheli zezoshishino, iinkokheli zezenkolo nemibutho yoluntu ukuba zizinikele ekulweni aba bhuhane zize zithethe nabantu abaphantsi kolawulo lwazo.

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) Diph- theria, 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

Eyona projekthi inkulu yezezindlu ivuliwe ngoku

EYONA PROJEKTHI YEZINDLU inkulu kweli, e-Westgate, KwaZulu-Natal, inezindlu ezingama-952 eziqeshisayo.



Ukongameli Jacob Zuma kunye noMphathiswa wezokuHlaliswa koLuntu baphelele eyona projekthi inkulu kweli lizwe yokwakhiwa kwezindlu ePietermaritzburg.

Hlengiwe Ngobese

Ngethuba uMongameli uJacob Zuma enikezela indlu entsha ku-Caroline Carstens, omyaka yobudala ingama-20, nongumhlali waseWestgate akawazanga ukulubamba uchulumano abenalo waza wathi urhulumente ulifezekisile iphupha lakhe lokukhulisela abantwana bakhe kwindlu endilisekileyo.

“Ibisoloko iliphupha lam ukuba ndibe nendlu endilisekileyo ngenye imini kodwa andizange ndayicinga eyokuba eli phupha lingaba lingazalisekiswa msinyakanga. Ndiyambulela urhulumente ngokusibonelela ngezi zindlu zindilisekileyo,” utshilo.

UCarstens ngomnye wabantu abangama-3 000 abafumene izindlu nabathe banikezelwa izindlu ezintsha ngethuba uMongameli uZuma ebevula eyona projekthi inkulu yezezindlu zezentlalo eWestgate, ePietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal ngomhla woku-01 kuTshazimpunzi wama-2017. Le projekthi kulindeleke ukuba iza kubiza imali ezizigidi ezine zeerandi, neziquka inkxaso-mali evela kwicandelo labucala.

Omye wabantu abafumene izindlu nguNomkhosi Msimang, omyaka yobudala ingama-30, nosebenza njengomongikazi osafundayo kwisiBhedlele i-Grace. Uthi akakhangela akholelwe xa ebefumana umyalezo wokuvuyisana naye kwiselula yakhe nobumazisa ukuba isicelo sakhe siphumelele.

“Owu! Nkosi yam! Namhlanje, ndiphethe izitshixo zendlu

yam. Ngenene lo rhulumente uyabuphucula ubomi babantu baseMzantsi Afrika. Le projekthi ndeva ngayo kwintlanganiso yabahlali ndaza ndathi kum ngaphakathi ‘makhe ndifane ndizame nje ndifake isicelo’. Azange ndayicinga eyokuba ungafumana indlu kurhulumente xa kungekho mntu umaziyo khona, kodwa ndim lo ndiyifumene. Andihlawulanga nesenti ukuba ndifumane eli gumbi lihle kangaka. Ukufaka isicelo bafune nje isiqinisekiso somvuzo wam nesendawo endihlala kuyo. Ndiyambulela urhulumente ngokugququla ubomi bam,” utshilo.

Ukumiselwa kweWestgate

Ethetha kumsitho wokumiselwa kwezindlu zezentlalo zaseWestgate uMongameli uZuma uthe ekugqityweni kwayo le projekthi iza kubonelela ngezindlu ezisondele kwi-1 000 eziza kuhlala abantu abaphantse babe ngama-4 000.

“KwiNtetho kaMongameli engobume beSizwe yowama-2010 neyowama-2012, ndathetha ngabasebenzi abamkela imivuzo ephakathi abasokolayo ukuzifumana iindawo zokuhlala ezindilisekileyo nezifikelekayo kuba bengafanelekanga ngokwemivuzo ukuba bafumene indlu yesibonelelo sikarhulumente futhi bengenamali yaneleyo yokufumana kwizindlu ezithengwa ngeebhanka.

“Ukwakhiwa kweProjekthi yeZindlu zezeNtlalo yaseWestgate kusabela kanye kumnceli-mngeni onjalo. Kunika ulutsha lwakuthi oluphangelayo ithuba lokuba

luhlale kwindawo endilisekileyo nemi kwindawo efanelekileyo, ngeli xesha ikhuthaza ukuhlalisana ngoxolo phakathi kwabantu nokuchithwa kwesicwangciso sokwabiwa kwendawo yokuhlala sezocalucalulo.

“Ezi zindlu zikule projekthi zonke ziyaqeshisa, zilungiselelwe abantu abamkela imivuzo ephakathi kwe-1 500 leerandi nama-7 500 eerandi ngenyanga. Yindlu emagumbi mabini okulala, indlu nganye inegumbi lokuphelela elidibeneyo nelokuhlala.

“Singurhulumente ongasokuze aphumle bade bonke abemi boMzantsi Afrika babe bahlale kwiindawo zokuhlala ezindilisekileyo. Sizimisele ukubuyisela isidima sabantu bakuthi ngeendawo zokuhlaliswa koluntu,” utshilo uMongameli uZuma.

Illokishi ezintsha kuMzantsi Afrika jikelele

UMongameli uZuma uthi urhu-

lumente uza kuqhubeka ukukubeka njengomba ophambili ukunikezelwa kwezindlu kubantu abahluphekileyo. Oku kuquka namakhaya angenabazali aphe-thwe ngabantwana, abantu abakhubazeke ngokwasemzimbeni kwakunye nabantu abalupheleyo.

“Ndiye ndachukunyiswa nguMnu Maphumulo othile okhaliphileyo nokhubazekileyo ngokwasemzimbeni waseVulindlela, xa ebesiwa kwindlu yakhe esanda ukwakhiwa entsha. Ukuba nendawo yokuhlala endilisekileyo kukunika amathuba aliqela okuxhamla kwezintloko nakwezooqoqosho. Oku kuquka umgangatho wobomi ophucukileyo, ukuba nendawo yabucala neyeyakho buqu into leyo ekunzima ukuyifumana kwityotyombe eliligumbi elinye, indawo ekhuselekileyo nelungelo lokuba nendawo yokuhlala eyeyakho.

“Urhulumente wePhondo laKwaZulu-Natal wakhe izindlu ezisondele kuma-500 000 ukususela kowe-1994. Oku kuthetha ukuba ngabantu abaphantse bafika kwizigidi ezibini ababomi babo butshintshiweyo babangcono ngulo rhulumente. Ukunikezelwa ngezindlu kuye kwakhokelela ekuveleni kweelokishi eziliqela ezintsha kweli lizwe jikelele ukususela ngowe-1994.... Ezi lokishi ziquka iindawo ezifana neCosmo City eGauteng, iKlarinet eMpumalanga, iCornubia KwaZulu-Natal, iZanemvula eMpuma Koloni neN2 Gateway eNtshona Koloni. Ukongeza koku iindawo ezininzi zasemaphandleni ezazihlelekile ngaphambili zixhamle kakhulu kula maphulo. Enye yeeprojekthi zezindlu enkulu ethe yaguqula iindawo zasemaphandleni ngo-

kwezintloko nangokwezooqoqosho yiVulindlela apha ePietermaritzburg, nekulindeleke ukuba ibonelele ngezindlu ezingaphezulu kwama-20 000 ekugqityweni kwazo, eziza kubonelela abahlali abangaphezulu kwama-100 000 ngeendawo zokuhlala ezindilisekileyo. Nangona kunjalo, kusekuninzi okusadinga ukwenziwa,” utshilo uMongameli uZuma.

“Urhulumente wePhondo laKwaZulu-Natal wakhe izindlu ezisondele kuma-500 000 ukususela kowe-1994. Oku kuthetha ukuba ngabantu abaphantse bafika kwizigidi ezibini ababomi babo butshintshiweyo babangcono ngulo rhulumente.”

UMongameli uZuma ukhuthaza abantu abafumene izindlu ukuba bazixabise izindlu zabo.

“Ezi zindlu zezenu. Ndiyanibongoza ukuba ningazithengisi izindlu zenu. Siye saqaphela imikhwa eyothusayo apho abantu abafumene izindlu zikarhulumente baye bazithengise khona izindlu zabo baze baphinde bahlupheke kwakhona. Kufuneka niyazi ukuba umntu ulifumana kube kanye ithuba lokufaneleka ukuba afumane indlu. Ukuba uyayithengisa, awusayi kuphinda ufumane ithuba lokufaka isicelo kwakhona,” utshilo. **U**



Iprojekthi yezezindlu zezentlalo zaseWestgate kulindeleke ukuba ibonelele ngezindlu ezisondele kwi-1 000 eziza kuhlala abantu abaphantse babe ngama-4 000 ekugqityweni kwayo.

Ii-ofisi ezilungisiweyo zesebe lemicimbi yezeKhaya zithiywe ngegama likaTutu



UMongameli Zuma kunye nalowo wayenguMphathiswa wemiCimbi yezeKhaya uMalusi Gigaba ubulisa iimbacu ngethuba etyelele iziko elilungisiweyo.

Allison Cooper

UMongameli uJacob Zuma kutsha nje uphehlelele ngokutsha ii-ofisi zesebe lemicimbi yezeKhaya zase-Marabastad waza wazithiya ngokutsha njengeDesmond Tutu Refugee Reception Centre.

Kudliwano-ndlebe lukano-mathotholo kunye noMongameli uJacob Zuma, ngo-

thungelwano-ngqo lweZiko lezoNxibelelwano nokuSasazwakoLwazi lukaRhulumente (i-GCIS) kutsha nje, uthe usanda kutyelela iMarabastad, kumbindi wesixeko sasePitoli, ukuyokuphehlela nokuthiya ngokutsha ii-ofisi zesebe lemicimbi yezeKhaya.

“Sinovuyo kuba eli ziko lithiywe ngegama lommi woMzantsi Afrika owaziwayo othe walwela ubulungisa, umakulingwane, amalungelo oluntu

nenkululeko ngokuzinikela.

“Urhulumente uyayibulela inkxaso ye-Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation ekuthiyeni ngokutsha iZiko laseMarabastad njenge-Desmond Tutu Refugee Reception Centre,” utshilo uMongameli.

Kowama-2015 uMongameli waya eMarabastad njengenxalenye yenkqubo yokuhlola ebizwa i-*Presidential Siyahlo-la Monitoring*.

“Ekuyeni kwam kwisebe

lemicimbi yezeKhaya kwakukho igquba labantu ngaphandle ndaza ndabanika ithuba lokuba bathethe nam.

Baphakamisa imiba emininzi ndaza ndabona ukuba imeko ayikho ntle tu kwaphela. Ndaye ndangena ngaphakathi ukuyokuhlola ndabona ukuba le miba ibiphakanyiswa ngabantu idinga ukuhoywa,” ungqine watsho uMongameli.

Imingeni ebekujongenwe nayo eMarabastad iquka ukungabikho kwabasebenzi aboneleyo, iziseko ezingundoqo zobuchwepheshe ezicothayo, inkqubo engekho mgangathweni yokufaka emaxwebhini nokugcina iinkcukacha zabantu, ulawulo oluqhwalelayo kunye nendawo yokusebenzela engefanelekanga kwabo bazokufuna uncedo kwakunye nakubasebenzi. Eli ziko likwathiwe mbende nazizityholo zorhwaphilizo, imigca yabantu emide, ukuphuphuma nobukho boonqalintloko abophula umthetho.

Iindawo zikawonkewonke zitshintshiwe zaza zalungiswa, kuquka imibhalo, iitafile zokusebenzela izibane, nenkqubo yokhuselo entsha kwaza kwabiyelwa ngocingo lo-mbane. Amanye amanyathelo okungenelela aphambili aquka ukuqali-

swa kweenkqubo ezintsha nezokuhlala, ezifana nenkqubo yokwenza idinga ezenzekelayo kunye nezicelo ezifakwa ngekhompyutha, ubhaliso oluphuculiweyo kunye neendlela zokugcina iinkcukacha zabantu kwakunye nokufakana imi-

“Sinovuyo kuba eli ziko lithiywe ngegama lommi woMzantsi Afrika owaziwayo othe walwela ubulungisa, umakulingwane, amalungelo oluntu nenkululeko ngokuzinikela.”

lomo rhoqo nabadlali-ndima.

Urhulumente uzimisele ukuluphelisa ulwaphulo-mthetho norhwaphilizo kweli ziko aze awathintele amaqela emiguluku yolwaphulo-mthetho ukuba asebenzise abafuna indawo yokubhacela ukwenza imali ngeendlela zokunyotyelwa iimpepha-mvume, ezithi zibeke eli lizwe kumngcipheko omkhulu wezokhuselo. **V**

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.” **V**