

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 izolwisana ne-HIV, i-TB nezifo ezithathelana ngocansi

UHLELO OLUSHA LOBUQHINGA LUKAZWELONKE luyindlela yokuphaka impi elwa nobhubhane leGciwane leSandulela-Ngculazi (i-HIV), iSifo Sofuba (i-TB) nezifo ezithathelana ngocansi (ama-STI). Luchaza kahle imizamo kahulumeni yokunciphisa ngamandla izehlakalo zalezi zimo, ukunciphisa ukuthelela komama izingane ezingakazalwa ngegciwane leSandulela-Ngculazi kuphinde kuncishiswe ukutheleleka kabusha phakathi kwamatshitshi nabesifazane abasebancane.

Noluthando Motswai

Uhlelo Olusha Lobuqhinga Lukazwelonke (i-NSP) olubhekene ne-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI kulindleleke lwehlise isibalo sabantu abane-TB ngama-30% luphinde linciphise isibalo sabantu abatheleleka yi-HIV okokuqala ngama-60%.

IPhini likaMongameli, uMnu Cyril Ramaphosa, limemezele lokhu ekwethulweni kwe-NSP yowezi-2017-2022 eBloemfontein kamuva nje.

Lolu hlelo ngokujwayelekile lweznelwa isikhathi esiyiminyaka emihlanu. Uhlelo lokugcina lwayekiswa ukusebenza ekupheleni kukaNdasa wezi-2017.

IPhini likaMongameli, uMnu Ramaphosa, lithe i-NSP yenziwe yahambelana kakhulu noHlelo Lokuthuthukiswa Kwezwe (i-NDP), ngokuzama ukuthungatha indlela yokulwa ne-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI kuwo wonke lo mshikashika wokuzama ukuthuthukisa umnotho nomphakathi.

"Ngokubambisana, sizama ukunciphisa isibalo sabantu abane-TB okungenani ngama-30%, sisuke

ebantwini abayiziyi-450 000 kuya kwabayiziyi-315 000. Kufanele sehlise isibalo sabantu abatheleleka okokuqala yi-HIV ngama-60% sisuke kwabayiziyi-270 000 ngonyaka wezi-2016 kuya ngaphansi kwabayiziyi-100 000 laphe kufikwa kunyaka wezi-2022."

Uphinde wathi uhulumeni uhlose ukunciphisa ukutheleleka ngegciwane leSandulela-Ngculazi kwezingane lisuka komama bazo kanye nokutheleleka okusha kwamatshitshi nabesifazane abasebancane okusuka ezi-2 000 njalo ngeviki kuye kufinyelele kokungaphansi kwama-800.

Ngonyaka odlule iPhini likaMongameli lethula umkhankaso wokuvimbela i-HIV kwabesifazane abasebancane kanye namatshitshi.

Cishe babalelwa kwabayiziyi-2 000 abesifazane abasebancane kanye namatshitshi aneminyaka yobudala ephakathi kweyi-15 nama-24 abatheleleka okokuqala yi-HIV eNingizimu Afrika ngeviki ngalinye".

Umkhankaso obizwa nge-*She Conquers* uyaqaliswa ukusebenza njengengxenywe yomzamo wokunciphisa ukusabalala kwe-HIV nemithelela yayo.

"I-*She Conquers* igxile ekwehliseni

ukusabalala kwe-HIV, ukunciphisa ukukhulelwa kwamantombazanyana asemancane, ukugcina abantu abasha esikoleni, ukuqeda udhlame olugxile kwezocansi kanye nasebulilini obuthile kanye nokudala amathuba okudlondlobala ngomnotho kubantu abasha."

I-NSP inezinhloso ezicacile

IPhini likaMongameli, uMnu Ramaphosa, lithe i-NSP izogxila ezinjongweni ezinobuqhinga eziyisishiyagalombili ukuzama ukulwa ne-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI.

- Injongo yokuqala ukuphangisa umzamo wokunciphisa i-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI.

- Injongo yesibili ukunciphisa izigameko zokufa kwabantu ngokuba kuhlinzekwe ukwelashwa kwe-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI, ukunakekelwa kanye nokulandelwa ngenhlela kwezinhlelo zokwesekwa kwabo bonke abantu.

- Injongo yesithathu ukuba kufinyelelwe bonke abantu abasemqoka nabasengcupheni ngenzihlelo zokungenelela kanye nezisoshiwe.

- Injongo yesine ukubhekana ngqo nezimo ezibhehetheki-

ASIBUMBANENI UKUZE SIQEDE I-TB NE-HIV

ABAHOLI BASENINGIZIMU AFRIKA BAZIBAMBELA MATHUPHA

sa i-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI emphakathini.

- Injongo yesihlanu ukuqinisekisa isisekelo sokusabela kwe-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI emigomweni yamalungelo abantu kanye nasemaswini asetshe-nziswayo.
- Injongo yesithupha ukukhuthaza ubuhlo kanye nokwabelana ngomthwalo wokuphendula ngokwenziwayo njengomzamo wokubhekana ne-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI.
- Injongo yesikhombisa ukuba kuhloniwe ngezindlela zokwesekwa kwezinjongo ze-NSP kanye nokuqinisekisa izindlela zokuphendula ezizinzile.
- Injongo yesishiyagalombili ukuqinisa ulwazi olunobuqhinga lokushayela inqubekelelaphambili ebheke ekufezekisweni kwezinjongo ze-NSP.

Ushintsho endleleni yokuziphatha lusemqoka

"Silapha ukuze siqinisekise ukuthi iphupho lokuba nesizukulwane esingenayo nhlobo iNgculazi sekuseduze lifezeke. Silapha ukuze sikhombise ukuzimisela kwethu

ukwakha umhlaba ongenakho ukulinyazwa yizifo ezivikelekayo nezelahekayo njenge-TB."

"Siyazi ukuthi ukutheleleka nge-HIV ne-TB akusho ukuthi uzofa. Siyazi ukuthi indlela engcono yokwahlula izifo ezihambisanayo njenge-HIV ne-TB ilele ekutheni sishintshe indlela yokuziphatha ukuze kuphele ukusabalala kwegciwane." Ukwethulwa kwe-NSP yowezi-2017-2022 yithuba elibaluleke kakhulu lendlela yokuphendula kweNingizimu Afrika kumashayabhuqe we-HIV, i-TB kanye nama-STI. Isiqubulo se-NSP entsha sithi: "*Let Our Actions Count*" okuyikhwela elishayelwa bonke abantu baseNingizimu Afrika ukuba badlale indima ekufezekisweni kwezinjongo zalolu hlelo.

Kulo nyaka, uhulumeni uhlose ikakhulukazi abaholi bezinhlangano ezithile zemiphakathi abafana namalungu ephalamende, amalungu ezishayamthetho zezifundazwe, amakhansela, abaholi bezandabuko, abaholi bezamabhizinisi, abaholi bezenkolo nabezinhlangano zomphakathi ukuba bazibophezele ukulwa nale mibulalazwe baphinde bazibandakanye emiphakathini yabo. **V**

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. **V**

Source: Government Employees Medical Scheme

Umklamo Wezindlu Zomphakathi Omkhulukazi Manje Usuvuliwe

UMKLAMO OMKHULUKAZI WEZEZINDLU ezweni, uzinze eWestgate, KwaZulu-Natali, wakhiwe yizindlu ezingama-952 lapho kunezindlu eziqashisayo.



■ Umongameli uJacob Zuma kanye noNgqongqoshe Wezokuhlaliswa Kwabantu uLindiwe Sisulu bethule umklamo wezindlu zomphakathi omkhulukazi eMgungundlovu.

Thandeka Ngobese

Ngenkathi uMongameli uJacob Zuma enikezela ngendlu entsha kuCaroline Carstens, oneminyaka engama-20, oyisakhamuzi saseWestgate akakwazanga ukuyibamba injabulo yakhe wathi uhulumeni usefeze iphupho lakhe lokukhulisa izingane zakhe endlini ephucukile.

Selokhu kwaba yiphupho lami ukuba ngibe nendlu ngeninye ilanga kodwa angikaze ngicabange ukuthi leli phupho lingafezeka masinyane kangaka" Ngiyabonga kakhulu kuhulumeni ngokusihlinzeka ngezindlu eziphucukile," kusho yena.

UCarstens ungomunye wabahlomuli abayizi-3 000 abanikezwa izindlu lapho uMongameli Zuma evula khona umklamo omkhulukazi wezindlu ezweni eWestgate, eMgungundlovu, KwaZulu-Natali ngomhla lu-1 kuMbaso wezi-2017. Umklamo kulindeleke ukuba ubize izigidi zamarandi ezifinyelela kweziyi-4, nokubandakanya ukuxhaswa ngemali evela emkhakheni ozimele.

Omunye umhlomuli nguNomkhosi Msimang, oneminyaka engama-30, osebenza njengomhlengikazi osaqeqeshwa eGrace Hospital. Uthe ngenkathi ethola umyalezo omhalaliselayo nomazisa ukuthi isicelo sakhe sibe yimpumelelo akazange awukholwe kahle.

"Nkosi yami! Namuhla, ngziphethe esandleni izikhiye

zendlu yami. Lo hulumeni uzenza ngcono ngempela izimpilo zabantu baseNingizimu Afrika. Ngike ngezwa ngalo mklamo emhlanganweni womphakathi ngazitshela ukuthi 'ake nami ngizame ngifake isicelo hleze sibe yimpumelelo'. Angikaze ngicabange ukuthi umuntu angayithola indlu kuhulumeni ebe engenabo abantu abaziyo ngaphakathi, kodwa bheka nami ngiyitholile. Angizange ngikhokhe nendibilishi ukuze ngithole le ndlu enhle kangaka. Bafuna nje *i-payslip* yakho kanye nekheleli lalapho uhlala khona ukuze ukwazi ukufaka isicelo. Ngiyabonga uhulumeni ngokuba ashintshe impilo yami," kusho yena.

Ukwethulwa kweWestgate

Ekhuluma ngenkathi kwethulwa umklamo wezindlu zomphakathi iWestgate uMongameli Zuma uthe ekuphuthulweni kwalo mklamo kuzobe sekulethwe amayunithi ezindlu eziyi-1 000 ezizohlala abahlomuli abalinganiselwa ezi-4 000.

"Ngenkathi ngethula Inkulume Yesizwe yowezi-2010 neyezi-2012, ngakhuluma ngabasebenzi abahola umholo ophakathi nendawo abakuthola kunzima ukuzitholela bona nemindeni yabo izindlu eziphucukile nezifinyelelekayo ngenxa yokuthi abafaneleki ukuthola izindlu zemixhaso noma amabhondi.

"Ukwakhiwa Komklamo Wezindlu Zomphakathi waseWestgate yindlela yokubhekana ngqo nalezi zinsalele. Uhlinzeka

ithuba entsheni yethu esebenzayo ukuba ihlale ezindlini eziphucukile nezitholakala ezindaweni ezilungile, kodwa kube kukhuthazwa ukudidiyelwa kokuhlalisana kwemiphakathi nokuqedwa kohlelo lombuso wobandlululo.

"Lo mklamo ngowokuqashisa ngokuphelele ubhekelele abantu abahola umholo ophakathi kwe-R1 500 nezi-R7 500. Uhlinzeka ngamayunithi anamagumbi amabili okulala, iyunithi ngayinye inekhishi elivulekile kanye negumbi lokuphumula.

Thina njengohulumeni asisoze saphumula kuze kube isakhamuzi ngasinye saseNingizimu Afrika sihlala endlini ephucukile nenesizotha. Inhloso yethu ukubuyisa isithunzi sabantu bakithi ngokubahlizeka ngezindlu zokuhlala", kusho uMongameli Zuma.

Amalokishi amasha ezweni lonkana laseNingizimu Afrika

UMongameli Zuma uthe uhu-

lumeni uzoqhubeka nokubeka eqhulwini ukuhlinzekwa kwabantu abampofu ngezindlu. Lokhu kubandakanya amakhaya aphethwe yizingane, abantu abakhubazekile kanye nabantu abadala.

"Ngathinteka kakhulu lapho ngibona uMnumzane Maphumulo onesibindi nokhubazekile emzimbeni wasendaweni yaseVulindlela, lapho ayengeniswa endlini yakhe eyayisanda kwakhiwa. Ukuba nompheme wakho ophucukile kuvula amathuba amaningi okuhlomula ngokomnotho nangokwenhlalo. Lokhu kubandakanya ikhwilithi ephucukile yokuphila, ukuba abantu babe nezindawo zabo zokuhlala ezingafani nalezo abazithola emikhukhwini eyigumbi elilodwa, indawo ephiphile kanye namalungelo asezingindlini.

Uhulumeni wesifundazwe saKwaZulu-Natali sewakhe amayunithi afinyelela kwayizi-500 000 kusukela ngonyaka we-1994. Lokhu kuchaza ukuthi bafinyelela ezigidini ezimbili abahlomuli izimpilo zabo ezishintshiwe zaba ngcono ngenxa yalo hulumeni" Ukuhlinzekwa ngezindlu kusukela ngonyaka we-1994 sekwenze kwaba namalokishi amasha akhiwe kulo lonke leli. Lapha sibala izindawo ezifana naseCosmo City eGauteng, Klarinet eMpumalanga, Cornubia KwaZulu-Natali, eZanemvula eMpumalanga Kapa kanye ne-N2 eNtshonalanga Kapa. Phezu kwaleli nani eminye imiphakathi ekade icindezelekile ngaphambilini seyitholele ukhulomula kakhulu. Omunye umklamo owaziwayo osewu-

guqule izimpilo zemiphakathi yasemakhaya ngokomnotho kuseVulindlela lapha eMgungundlovu, okulindeleke ukuba kunikezelwe ngamayunithi ezindlu eziyi-20 000 lapho sewuphuthuliwe, lapho kuzohlizeka abahlali abayizi-100 000 ngamakhaya aphucukile. Noma kunjalo, kusekuningi okusadinga ukwenziwa," kusho uMongameli Zuma.

"Uhulumeni wesifundazwe saKwaZulu-Natali sewakhe amayunithi afinyelela kwayizi-500 000 kusukela ngonyaka we-1994. Lokhu kuchaza ukuthi bafinyelela ezigidini ezimbili abahlomuli izimpilo zabo ezishintshiwe zaba ngcono ngenxa yalo hulumeni."

UMongameli Zuma ukhuthaza abahlomuli ukuba bazazise izindlu zabo.

"Lezi zindlu ngezenu. Ngiyaninxusa ukuba ningazidayisi izindlu zenu. Siqaphele ukuthi kunomkhuba omubi nongathandeki lapho abahlomule ngezindlu zikahulumeni bebuye bazidayise bese bephinda beba ngabantu abaswele futhi. Kufanele wazi ukuthi unethuba elilodwa kuphela lokuba ufaneleke ukuba nendlu. Uma uyidayisa, ngeke usaba nelinye ithuba lokufaka isicelo futhi," kusho yena. ■



■ Umklamo wezindlu zomphakathi iWestgate ulindeleke ukuba ulethe amayunithi ezindlu ezilinganiselwa kwi-1 000 ezizohlala abahlomuli abalinganiselwa ezi-4 000 uma usuphuthuliwe.

Ihhovisi lezasekhaya eselilungiswe kabusha eliqanjwe ngoTutu



■ UMongameli uZuma kanye noNgqongqoshe wangaphambilini Wezasekhaya uMalusi Gigaba babingelela ababaleki ngenkathi kunohambo lokuhambela izakhiwo ezilungiswe kabusha.

Allison Cooper

UMongameli Jacob Zuma usanda kwethula kabusha ihhovisi lezindaba zasekhaya laseMarabastad futhi waliqamba kabusha ngokuthi yiDesmond Tutu Refugee Reception Centre.

Ngesikhathi sixoxisana noMongameli Jacob Zuma, emsakazweni woPhiko Lukahlulumeni Lwezokuxhu-

mana Nokudluliswa Kolwazi (i-GCIS) kamuva nje, uthe usanda kuvakashela eMarabastad, esenkabeni yedolobha lasePitoli, eyokwethula futhi aqambe kabusha ihhovisi lakhona lezindaba zasekhaya.

"Sinentokozo kakhulu ngokuthi isikhungo lesi siqanjwe ngesakhamuzi saseNingizimu Afrika esiqavile nesalwa kakhulu silwela ubulungiswa, ukulingana, amalungelo abantu kanye nenkululeko."

"Uhlumeni uyakuthakaselela kakhulu ukuzimisela nokweseka okunikezwe ngabe-Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation ukuze kuqanjwe kabusha iMarabastad Centre njenge-Desmond Tutu Refugee Reception Centre," kusho uMongameli.

Ngonyaka wezi-2015 uMongameli wahambela eMarabastad njengengxenywe yohlelo LukaMongameli Lokuqapha olubizwa nge-*Presidential Si-*

yahlola Monitoring.

"Ngenkathi ngihambele ehhovisi lezindaba zasekhaya kwakunesixuku sabantu ngaphandle ngabanikeza ithuba lokuba bakhulume nami.

Baveza izinkinga eziningana nami ngabona ukuthi isimo sasingasihle neze.

Ngangena ngaphakathi ngabona ukuthi izinkinga eziphakanyiswe ngabantu zazidinga ukunakwa ngempele," kuqinisekisa uMongameli.

Izineselele ezibhekene nendawo yaseMarabastad zazibandakanya inkinga yokuntuleka kwabantu abasebenzayo, ingqalasizinda esemuva kwezobuchwepheshe, izinhlelo zokufayela ezingenele, izindlela zokungamela ezingashayi khona kanye nendawo yokusebenza engakhuthazi ukusebenza kumakhasimende nabasebenzi.

Isikhungo futhi besisibekelwe izinsolo zenkohlakalo, imigqa emide, ukugcwala ngokweqile kanye nokwanda kwamaqembu ezigebe.

Izindawo zomphakathi manje seziphuculiwe zalungiswa kahle, kubandakanya nezimpawu zokuyalela, amakhawunta nezibani ezikhanyisayo, kanye nohlelo olusha lwezokuphepha kanjalo nokubiyela ngocingo lukagesi.

Ezinye izindlela zokungenelela zibandakanya izinhlelo ezintsha nezinqubo, njengohlelo lokubekisa indawo oluzenzakalelayo nokufakwa kwezicelo okwenziwa ngamakhompuyutha, uhlelo lwerejista olwenziwe ngcono kanye nokubonisana njalonjalo nababambiqhaza.

"Sinentokozo kakhulu ngokuthi isikhungo lesi siqanjwe ngesakhamuzi saseNingizimu Afrika esiqavile nesalwa kakhulu silwela ubulungiswa, ukulingana, amalungelo abantu kanye nenkululeko."

Inhloso kahulumeni ukuqeda ubugebengu nenkohlakalo kulo mkhaka kuphinde kuvinjelwe nezigebe ezisebenza ngamaqoqo ukuba zingasebenzisi ababaleki abafuna ukubhaciswa kuleli ukwenza imali ngokugwazelwa ukuze kutholakale izimvume, nokubeka ukuphepha kwezwe engcupheni embi kakhulu. ■

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. ■