

**State of the Province Address**  
**Delivery by Premier Phumulo Masualle,**  
**In Bhisho, On 15 February 2019**

---

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker;

Leadership of the ANC and the Alliance

Ministers and Deputy Ministers;

Members of the Executive Council;

Members of the Provincial Legislature;

Members of National Parliament and delegates to the NCOP;

Speakers from our sister Legislatures;

Veterans of our struggle for national liberation and their families;

Leadership of Political Parties;

liKumkani zethu zonke;

USihlalo Wendlu Yeenkosi, iinkosi, kunye namaphakathi;

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips and Councillors;  
Judge President of the Eastern Cape and Members of the Judiciary;  
Leaders of Chapter 9 Institutions;  
Vice Chancellors of our Tertiary Institutions;  
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps;  
Provincial Commissioner of SAPS, Senior Officers and Heads of Security Services;  
Leaders of the Religious Fraternity, Business, and Civil Society;  
Senior Government Officials and Heads of State-Owned Enterprises;  
Deputy Chairperson of the EC Planning Commission and Commissioners

***“Women are the  
people who are going  
to relieve us from all  
this oppression”***

***- Albertina Sisulu***



# Woman of Fortitude



Caring and Nurturing

## **Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen**

*Mzi wakowethu, mandithathe eli thuba ndibulise kuni nonke egameni likaRhulumente. Kuzo zonke iindawo enikuzo sithi molweni!* I know that some of you are gathered and listening to this address at various venues across the Province, including those who are gathered at Public Viewing Areas – at Gompo Hall in Gompo, at Babs Madlakane in Uitenhage kwaNobuhle, at Elubaleko Community Hall in Mount Ayliff, at Sonwabile Community Hall in Maclear, at Kliplaat Community hall in Kliplaat, at Lusikisiki College in Lusikisiki, at Ncumisa Kondlo Community Hall eNgqushwa, nase Cala Community Hall.

*Kuwo onke amakhaya eeNgqwele zeli phondo, nakuwo wonke umlisela nomthinjane wakowethu, siyabhotisa! Dumelang! Goeie dag aan u almal!*

Madam Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to thank you and Honourable Members of this august house for the honour you have accorded us to address you. As we close the fifth term of our administration, we cannot but note with a deep sense of appreciation that, once more you have generously allowed us an opportunity to account to our people for the work done. We are also humbled beyond words by the trust the people of the Eastern Cape bestowed on us when they, back in 2014, gave the African National Congress, both in this Province and in the rest of the country, a renewed mandate to pursue the historic duty of rewriting the wrongs of the past and thus improve their lives.

Indeed a great deal of work has been done, and much ground has been covered, both by this 5<sup>th</sup> administration, and by the administrations that came since the dawn of our democracy. Without any hesitation, access to education continue to improve, more have access to basic services like electrification, water and sanitation, broadened access to healthcare services, resulting in improved life expectancy, the quality of life for more of our inhabitants continues to improve.

Madam Speaker, it is equally true that more still needs to be done, and as we have done before, our combined energies and brainpower are still required. As former President Mbeki once put it, that in our quest to meet the commitments we undertake to better the lives of our people, we shall need to do “business unusual”. This would require of us to think innovatively, act differently and decisively, with courage and conviction, in pursuit of diligent service to our people.

Madam Speaker, like athletes in a relay race, today marks the point at which the current administration true to the dictates of our constitutional order is getting ready to handover the baton to the next.

In a manner that seamlessly continues the service to our people, all the policy instruments that guided the 5<sup>th</sup> administration, the National Development Plan, our Provincial Development Plan and its Vision 2030, as well as the Provincial Medium-Term Strategic Framework,

shall continue to guide the 6<sup>th</sup> administration. Accordingly, today our task is to give a full account on how we discharged ourselves in respect to the mandate we were given.

Madame Speaker, at the start of the term we set out to **develop and transform the Eastern Cape economy** through which we would be able to address the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality. To this end, we anchored our economic strategy on six focal areas, namely: the automotive industry, renewable energy, industrialization through SEZ promotion and industrial parks, tourism, agricultural production, and SMME development. We also saw our role as the creation of an enabling environment and policy certainty for industry players to engage meaningfully within our localities in order to create jobs and provide livelihoods.

Madam Speaker, notwithstanding perennial challenges of a constrained global and domestic economy, a tight fiscal environment, and a long drought season, the provincial economy has made a positive contribution towards the betterment of the lives of our people. In support of our economy, the two Industrial Development Zones (IDZs) and the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) combined, have attracted investments well above R30 billion, thus creating more than 29 000 jobs during this term. These investments clearly demonstrate confidence in our economy.

These investments include foreign direct investment from a range of companies, including the Chinese motor vehicle manufacturing

company BAIC, Goodyear South Africa, Yekani Manufacturing, Mercedes Benz, Volkswagen and South African Breweries.

Madam Speaker, we also paid attention on creating a road network that supports our economic activities. In partnership with SANRAL, we rehabilitated our road networks such as the N10 to Alexandria, Peddie to East London, the R58 between Aliwal North, Lady Grey, Barkley East and Elliot, and the R63 between Bedford, Adelaide, King William's Town and Komga. Many will testify to the improved condition of the R61 between Mthatha and Bizana which made the province a construction site. We have spent more than R850 million on access roads and bridges for increased access to schools, health institutions, tourism entities and agricultural facilities. As we speak, over 3500 km of gravelled roads in the Province were re-gravelled, while over 75000 km of gravel roads were bladed. Furthermore, in partnership with the Department of Defence, five bridges in the Bawa village of the Mquma Local Municipality were replaced. Such road infrastructure work has benefited over 100 SMMEs, with nearly 2,000 employment opportunities. This work will continue into the medium term and beyond.

Madam Speaker, you will recall that a fortnight ago the Provincial Government issued an apology to the people of the Eastern Cape and the business community at large, for the inconvenience caused as a result of a decision by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) to downgrade Mthatha Airport from a CAT 4 level airport to a CAT 3 level.



***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”***

***- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela***



# Father of the Nation



Caring and Nurturing

This was due, largely, to non-compliance of the airport to SACAA regulations pertaining mainly to Emergency Services staffing and protocols as well as other matters.

Since that fateful decision the Provincial Government responded with speed to fulfil the compliance requirements of the airport in line with SACAA regulations.

Government is in the process of instituting consequence management against those who are responsible.

I can report here that an announcement regarding the restoration of Mthatha Airport to CAT 4 can be expected soon.

Madam Speaker, our energy sector has benefited from the award of 15 wind farms, and 1 solar farm in the province. As we speak, the Eastern Cape is now home to 8 manufacturers in the renewable energy sector with a combined investment value of over R1 billion.

Madam Speaker, tourism has played a significant role in supporting our economy. The Eastern Cape is rated among the best in tourism and nature conservation. Our provincial tourism businesses are recognised as among the best in the country, with the Eastern Cape securing more national tourism awards during this term.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the crucial role of SMMEs in growing the economy, through the Eastern Cape Development Corporation, we have provided financial support to the tune of

R578.2 million. Furthermore, through the Jobs Stimulus Fund, we disbursed R26.3 million, thus saving 2632 jobs. Further non-financial support was provided to cooperatives and SMMEs. Our progressive government policy of 30 day payment period has also been welcomed by the business community. However there is still a lot of work required to monitor and ensure that it is effective and achieves its intended objectives of promoting business functionality and sustainability.

Madam Speaker, through our Small Town Revitalization programme, we have allocated resources to intervene, save, upgrade and improve the infrastructure of our rural small towns. We supported the delivery of trading services in municipalities through enabling basic services such as water, surfacing of strategic internal roads, sanitation and ensuring that there is stable electricity through the revamping of power stations. As a result, places such as Ntabankulu and Mthatha have seen businesses locating in their towns, thus creating jobs and positively contributing to the GDP growth and economic revival.

Augmenting all the above efforts for job creation is the Expanded Public Works Programme, through which we created more than 430,000 temporal work opportunities, benefiting 61% women, 7% youth and 1% people with disability.

Madam Speaker, since 2014 we have prioritized **agriculture**, which we regard as a significant economic game changer. Our

achievements over the term include the fact that over 125,000 ha was covered with grain production, supporting smallholder farmers with production inputs, as well as 5 603 clustered grain producers. The production inputs and infrastructure support to horticulture smallholder farmers in pineapples, citrus, deciduous and vegetables, assisted in the creation of seasonal jobs.

Honourable members, following the devastating drought which affected the country and retarded our agricultural yields, government implemented a drought intervention programme which focused on supporting farmers with water storage facilities, water carting, animal feed, fodder, as well as the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes. Furthermore, the Executive Council has recently taken a decision to urgently offer drought relief in response to the current drought, focusing in particular to the revitalization of farm infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, in support of our youth, we have focused our training initiatives in agriculture towards young females and farm workers. A total of over 2,000 young farmers have been capacitated through accredited and non-accredited courses in various agriculture related fields, such as crop and animal production as well as agribusiness skills.

We would also like to call on our communities to support the primary production element of the agricultural value by making use of the RED Hubs we have established as facilities that support local production.

Madam Speaker, a viable local government system is fundamental to the delivery of basic services to our people. All our priorities are delivered and implemented in a local municipality, in a ward, and in a village.

Through our Back to Basics programme, we have been engaged in a five-pronged strategy, which includes putting people and their needs first, building a culture of governance, ensuring sound financial management and accounting, and ensuring sound institutional and administrative capabilities. To date, more than 1.3 million households have been provided with basic sanitation; this translates to 80% access from the 69.1% at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> term of administration. Over 1.4 million households have access to basic electricity, which translates to 85.4% access from the 77.8% at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> term of administration.

We have been providing support to the newly amalgamated municipalities of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality, Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality, and Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality. All these municipalities still show persistent challenges threatening their viability and sustainability. To this end, we will continue to intervene and provide the necessary support until they have effectively turned the corner.

Madam Speaker, as a significant part of local government service delivery is the creation of liveable **human settlements**. This is not only a human rights imperative, it is one of our revolutionary goals

***“Women are the  
people who are going  
to relieve us from all  
this oppression”***

***- Albertina Sisulu***



**ALBERTINA SISULU**  
*Centenary*  
**2018**





as dictated to by the Freedom Charter, which states that “*There shall be housing, security and comfort*”. In this term we have delivered over 50,000 houses. This once again demonstrates our ability to accelerate service delivery, and creating an enabling environment for functional municipalities.

Madam Speaker, as part of **building the capacity of the state**, through our Provincial Audit Intervention Plan we have improved the audit outcomes of departments from eight unqualified audit opinions at beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> term to thirteen departments with unqualified audit opinions.

Madam Speaker, broadband connectivity remains a primary enabler for optimising the capability of the state, as well as unlocking the potential of the economy of the Eastern Cape. Put simply, without broadband connectivity, we cannot participate in the fourth industrial revolution as envisioned by the NDP. I am pleased to report that a settlement with SITA has been reached ending uncertainty in this regard. As a government, we are proceeding with implementing broadband connectivity, beginning with our health and education facilities, which require connectivity to address challenges such as rising medico-legal claims, the digitization of our records, skills development, as well as the imperative of lowering the cost of doing business in the province.

Madam Speaker, we continue to strengthen the functionality of our intergovernmental structures, as well as our Operation

Masiphathisane. It is in these platforms where true integration has been demonstrated albeit with certain challenges. Through Masiphathisane war rooms, we are reversing the top-down, disintegrated approach of doing things, and in introducing a new way of doing business to ensure services delivered are driven by the needs of the community.

By the end of this term, we will also have prepared good ground for public consultations on popularising the Provincial Development Plan through various platforms. This should target multiple stakeholders to ensure that the Provincial Development Plan is a people's vision and plan of action. Through the PDP we want to ensure that our Province is brought to a higher plane of development, by planning for the future today. As Sean Patrick Flanery once put it, "*do something today that your future self will thank you for*".

Madam Speaker, one of the positive ways to deal with xenophobia is to make sure immigrants are properly documented. We must to this end engage national government for the development of effective policy mechanism to offset the impact of this challenge, this positive response improve planning and budgeting to reduce unnecessary strain placed on basic services such as health, water, sanitation and electricity.

Madam Speaker, during the term of our administration we received a Government Advisory Technical Centre (GTAC) report on the review of mandates and operational efficacy of State-Owned

Entities, which found that some entities require updated mandates, institutional re-configuration, review of operational efficiencies and alignment with requirements of the Public Finance Management Act. We are currently engaging relevant entities on the report to chart a way forward.

Madam Speaker, a key feature of a better life we are committed to is that our people must be and feel safe in their homes, in their places of work, in the businesses they run, in public amenities, and everywhere else they choose to gather. For this reason, we are working to eliminate the **scourge of crime**. Through our oversight role over the police services, we have intensified the awareness campaigns and social crime prevention programmes. We have worked to reduce contact crime by among others inculcating ethics at school level, and conducting community safety forum campaigns, focusing on stock theft, school safety, police killings, the effects of substance abuse, crimes against women and children, as well as the killing of the elderly. As a result, we have observed an improvement in conviction rates.

As a matter of fact Madam Speaker, government remains committed to the liberties espoused and guaranteed under our Constitution, including religious freedoms. We are, however, dismayed by the growing trend of some churches being mired in the exploitation of our people, especially through cult-like movements as we saw at Engcobo, which ended tragically, and many others, some of which are currently before our courts. We are also shocked and infuriated

when we see videos of young girls being mercilessly assaulted at their church by those they trust. As a country, we must urgently consider developing instruments which may regulate the religious sector.

Madam Speaker, there are however other categories of crime that remain a challenge, including taxi violence, drug abuse and other drug related crimes. Evidence shows that even in rural areas there is an increase of drug related cases. In response to these developments, we welcome the launch of Traditional Policing strategy, as well as the Anti-Gang strategy. It is our belief that this will go a long way in combating and managing these incidents of crime.

In our quest to rid our province of fraud and corruption, we have intensified the Provincial Anti-Corruption Drive which saw the institutionalisation of ethics officers in all departments. We welcome the recently announced interventions in respect of the establishment of an investigative capacity in the National Prosecuting Authority, as well as support the Commissions underway with the hope that these will result in convictions of the perpetrators.

Madam Speaker, the Eastern Cape boasts a unique melting pot of cultural diversity, which anchors our collective identity. At the beginning of the term we prioritised harnessing our cultural diversity as part of **social cohesion**. We have supported this diversity to

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”***

***- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela***



# Father of the Nation



Caring and Nurturing

achieve nation-building through the hosting of various cultural events, sporting activities and promoting artistic expression.

In this regard, we hosted the National Arts Festival, the second largest arts festival in the world. The Berlin November indigenous horse race event, Isingqi Sakwantu and Eubeleni cultural festivals have successfully brought the people of the province together. We will continue to support unifying efforts such as the Sondela Youth Festival, and sporting events such as the Iron Man Challenge, and the Legends Marathon which pull participants towards a common cause.

We support the establishment of fashion brands that epitomise the values and promote the spirit of the Province, and bring a common pride and Eastern Cape identify, like MaXhosa Designs.

Madam Speaker, we have established dedicated capacity and launched the Moral Regeneration movement. We have achieved moral regeneration through the advocacy of good behaviour, mutual respect, ethical conduct and leadership through moulding of character.

Madam Speaker, we have prioritised providing support to designated vulnerable groups. Over the term, we have established dedicated capacity to address the mainstreaming of marginalised communities in line with Constitutionally guaranteed rights and international treaties to which we are signatory. The protection



of children, women, people living with disabilities, and the elderly talks to our stated values of Ubuntu. We have included our military veterans as part of designated groups.

Madam Speaker, to achieve social equity, we have provided social assistance services to the poor in the province, with as many as 2.5 million people in the Eastern Cape supported through the social security system.

Madam Speaker, as part of fostering national reconciliation among our people we have repatriated many remains of liberation fighters for reburial at home by their families.

We are also pleased with the recognition given to the work of an Mdantsane born acclaimed film writer and producer, Mr Jahmil X.T. Qubeka, whose film *Sew The Winter To My Skin* was selected as the country's official submission to be considered for the 2019 Oscar nominations.

In a similar vein, I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of some of sporting heroes, including Zolani "Lastborn" Tete who successfully defended his W.B.O. Bantam Title and further won the first round of the World Boxing Super Series. We also acknowledge Luxolo Adams from Burgersdorp who won 200 meters in Netherlands, Silver in Finland, and Bronze in the London World Cup.



We also celebrate all our elderly who turned 100 years of age in 2018 and in the first quarter of 2019, amongst them being Mrs. Nomaza Mfenyana from Queenstown and Mgodlwana Julius Xapa from KwaZangwa in Butterworth.

Madam Speaker, our partnership with the institution of traditional leadership in the Province has been strengthened and cemented through a variety of initiatives. Allow me to express my appreciation of the role played by traditional leaders especially on the issue of circumcision. Despite improvements in recent years in the reduction of fatalities during the circumcision season, the continued deaths of young boys at initiation schools remains a source of great pain. Working together, we must redouble our efforts and ensure that no family gets to grieve because of our cultural practices.

Madam Speaker, during the term, we developed a comprehensive **Youth Development** Strategy, in terms of which we focused on skills development, Nation Building, Cooperatives Development, SMME Development; Career Exhibitions; as well as Youth Dialogues and Awareness.

During the 5<sup>th</sup> term we introduced a Youth-in-Agriculture programme which provides training on livestock farming and crop production. We also introduced a very successful Maritime Youth Development Programme in partnership with SAMSA. I am particularly excited about the Youth in Infrastructure Maintenance programme which we launched in 2018/19, which is aimed at benefiting unemployed

young persons with Grades 7-12 or NCV 1-4 qualifications from across the Province.

Madam Speaker, **education** is one of our apex priorities. Having observed the lacklustre performance of prior years, we instituted and implemented the education system transformation plan, which has begun to yield positive results. At the beginning of this year we all celebrated our Class of 2018 which achieved a 70.6% pass rate – a first for the Eastern Cape since the dawn of democracy. This success lifted the Eastern Cape away from the bottom ring of the country's aggregated performance towards reclaiming our legacy as a top achieving academic province.

Allow me Madam Speaker, to acknowledge the excellent performance of some of our learners, such as Avukile Nkayi from Nyanga High School, who was the top Eastern Cape achiever for 2018 with seven distinctions, making him the number two star pupil from South Africa's quintile three schools. Our runner up to Avukile is Shaikh Uzma – a girl learner from Umtata High School, who also achieved seven distinctions.

As part of improving access to education, particularly for girl children from disadvantaged backgrounds, the Province will also roll out the Sanitary Dignity Framework Pilot Project in targeted quintiles 1-3 schools.

**ALBERTINA SISULU**  
*Centenary*  
**2018**



***“It always seems  
impossible until  
it’s done.”***

***- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela***



Madam speaker, I stand here a proud citizen of the Home of Legends appreciating the citizens of this province and the role all of us have played in restoring our proud legacy as the bastion of education and academic excellence in modern South Africa.

Our school leadership and collective ownership of our education system have turned the fortunes of such schools as Bhishe High School, and Zimele Senior Secondary in Mthatha to produce provincial top achievers in the Class of 2018.

Over the next term, we will incorporate our early childhood development programme into our basic education system as announced by President Ramaphosa in his State of the Nation Address last week.

Madam Speaker, I once more extend our sincerest condolences to the families who lost young ones during this term in school accidents. We re-dedicate our efforts to the provision of a safe and conducive schooling environment including adequate sanitation facilities in schools to prevent similar events

Madame Speaker, I take this opportunity to honour the steady, and committed role of the late MEC Mandla Makupula in the improvements which we have managed to achieve with our education system. His ability to reach every education institution across the province is truly remarkable and demonstrated his dedication to the cause of investing in the future of this province.

Madam Speaker, enabling our people with easy access and **affordable healthcare** has been one of our priorities in this term. In particular, what we sought to achieve was the development of a healthy people as a basis on which we must build a productive Eastern Cape. We committed ourselves to the implementation of the Service Transformation Plan to improve the quality of service in public health institutions in the Eastern Cape, which included the review and implementation of the turnaround strategy and plan for the community health centres and hospitals. Key indicators in this regard included the training of health care professionals, especially those who possess clinical, management and leadership skills at all levels of the health system, and those who meet the national standards of quality care. Furthermore, we focused our attention on upgrading and revitalization of health facilities in the Province.

Madam Speaker we are happy to report that for the most part, our objectives were achieved. With respect to the area of Primary Health Care (PHC) the province has improved coverage and access to PHC centres. For example, in 2015 the Ideal Clinic assessments were launched to measure norms and standards of infection prevention, cleanliness, staffing, security of patients, availability of medicines, and document management.

With respect to the development of health care professionals, up to 300 nurses have been developed yearly through the linkages with All Saints University of Fort Hare programme, as well as the doctor's development programme.

With respect to HIV/AIDS programmes, the province has further improved its capacity to provide ARV programs to clients including pregnant mothers and TB patients. We have also ensured that from 2015 to date, up to 1.5 million clients are tested for HIV/AIDS. Similarly, TB testing has also improved. There has been a marked decrease of TB prevalence from 976 incidence/1000 in 2014, to 506 incidents/1000 in 2018. In our quest to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable chronic diseases we screened up to 1.8 million clients for hypertension per year. Similarly up to 2.1 million clients were screened for diabetes, and 2.4 million PHC clients were screened for mental disorders. We have also seen a marked decrease in child mortality in the Province largely due to the reduction of malnutrition, pneumonia, and diarrhoea

Madam Speaker, our National Health Insurance pilot in OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo districts has yielded valuable lessons, which we are now ready to mainstream to the rest of the Province. These include the introduction of doctors to the Primary Health Care facilities through General Practitioner contracting, as well as the provision of pharmacist assistants to improve the availability of medicine at PHC facilities. Going forward, we will focus on building on the infrastructure progress made in the National Health Insurance sites to revitalize provincial and regional hospitals.

Madam Speaker, the delivery of health in the Province has not been without challenges. For example, one of our biggest concerns remains medico-legal claims, estimated to be R23 billion. We need

to resolve this funding pressure by revision of the equitable share distribution model to cater for this contingency.

Ladies and gentlemen, on 8 May this year, South Africans will vote for the start of the 6<sup>th</sup> administration. As the 6<sup>th</sup> administration will take us to the 3rd decade of our freedom and democracy, we accordingly urge those of our people who missed the last voter registration weekend to visit offices of the IEC and register to vote, so that they may exercise their right to vote.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, throughout our history we have always demonstrated that as a people we have an innate capacity to rise above any obstacle that may lie in our way. Regardless of how insurmountable the odds may seem to be, it has always been the African ethos to roll our sleeves and gird ourselves for the work that lies ahead. I leave you with the words of James E. Faust:

*“If there were no night, we would not appreciate the day, nor could we see the stars and the vastness of the heavens. We must partake of the bitter with the sweet. There is a divine purpose in the adversities we encounter every day. They prepare, they purge, they purify, and thus they bless.”*

I thank you, Ndiyabulela.