



NEW TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MEC APPOINTED



PEGGY NKONYENI.

Former MEC for Public Works and Human Settlement, Peggy Nkonyeni, has been appointed as the new MEC for Transport Community Safety and Liaison.

Nkonyeni will be replaced by Jomo Sibiya, who was the chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee. The two were sworn in to their new portfolios in Pietermaritzburg on Tuesday.

Announcing the KwaZulu-Natal cabinet reshuffle, Premier Sihle Zikalala said the move was meant to strengthen the government and ensure it responds to the pressing need to re-

vive the economy and create jobs. Zikalala said these changes were necessary to strengthen the government, but the announcement was met with scepticism by opposition parties who said the reshuffle seemed to be for political security rather than service delivery.

He said following the death of Transport MEC Bheki Ntuli in January that created a vacancy in the executive council, "in our efforts to ensure that there was no disruption to service delivery, we appointed Education MEC Kwazi Mshengu to act in this department. We would like to thank him for his hard work in these two departments.

"On February 26, we delivered the State of the Province Address and we committed ourselves to work faster to ensure that we rebuild our economy and create job opportunities. That meant we needed to strengthen the functioning of the government and we needed leadership that will be hands on and ensure that things are done accordingly," said Zikalala.

PROFILE

Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni is a seasoned cadre of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party. In May 2019, she returned from her deployment to the National Assembly to a seat in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature. On 27 May 2019, Premier Sihle Zikalala appointed her to the portfolio of MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works. On Tuesday 09 March 2021 she was reassigned to the Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Portfolios following the reconfiguration of the Provincial Executive Council. She has previously served terms as KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education and Health as well as Speaker of the Provincial Legislature. Her other Legislature deployments have included chairperson of committees and chairperson of the women's caucus. MEC Nkonyeni hails from the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast with her home in Gamalakhe Township. It was there that she cut her political teeth as a young activist. She was the first chairperson of the ANC Women's League in her region. She is an educator by profession having obtained her qualification from Eshowe College of Education. MEC Nkonyeni has undertaken further studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, Institute for Integrative Nutrition, and FinCamp and Umgibe Farming Organics and Training Institute. She has a deep commitment to the eradication of poverty, inequality and unemployment and the overall transformation of our society. Her special focus during her term of office will be the empowerment of women, youth and people with disabilities within the infrastructure and built environment sector in the Province.

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