



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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RADICAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IS NON-NEGOTIABLE, MEC KAUNDA TELLS PROFESSIONALS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, has called on African entrepreneurs in the construction sector to grab the opportunities his department provides through the radical socio-economic transformation programme.

Speaking at the Progressive Professional Forum's breakfast in Durban earlier today, Kaunda said that the provincial Department of Transport will use its buying power to ensure that emerging contractors, particularly women and youth benefit from the department's R7.2 billion roads and transportation infrastructure budget. He said that his department was no longer theorising about the radical socio-economic transformation, and had already started to implement the programme.

"As a department, we have developed an integrated radical socio-economic transformation strategy, which seeks to drive inclusive growth by increasing the participation of Africans in particular and Blacks in general in the transport sector and economy broadly. This strategy has been approved by the Provincial Executive Council, a clear indication that radical socio-economic transformation is going to be the provincial government's strategic policy thrust. It is going to pervade throughout our bloodstream of the department, our stakeholders both

internally and externally, including our supplies and service providers,” said Kaunda.

He said that the Department was well aware that the changes it is introducing will “touch the nerves of those who want to maintain the status quo.” Transforming a deeply entrenched and skewed economic patterns, which were built to favour the few, was not going to be a walk in the park, Kaunda admitted.

“We hold the firm view that political freedom without economic power is meaningless. Therefore, we must be set on action to ensure that we achieve economic freedom in our lifetime,” said Kaunda.

Kaunda said that his department will be undertaking an overhaul of the departmental policies, systems and processes to effectively increase participation of particularly Africans and Blacks in general in the transport sector value chain. In addition, “special attention will be paid on changing attitudes and mind-sets of both public service workers and our external stakeholders, especially the service providers. A clear message must be sent to everyone that achieving a fair and equitable distribution of work and wealth is non-negotiable,” said Kaunda.

Ends.

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