

Responsible spending urged by finance MEC

SHERLISSA PETERS

P2

ONE of the major risks facing departments and public entities in KwaZulu-Natal is the amount of irregular expenditure, says Finance MEC Belinda Scott.

Although substantial work had been done by the Provincial Treasury to investigate cases, the sheer volume of transgressions made it a daunting task, she said.

"New cases are identified by the auditor-general every year and some departments fail to provide sufficient motivation and explanations for evaluation to the provincial treasury team. The good news is that the executive has supported the consideration of a first charge against the budgets of the defaulting departments in these instances."

Scott was speaking at the pres-

entation of her department's R878 315 million budget for the 2014/15 financial year yesterday.

She warned that departments could only spend allocated provincial funds wisely if there was a collective culture of responsible spending. "Value for money should be paramount. Therefore, each and every public institution and public official must abide by the laws and regulations governing good governance and prudent financial management," Scott said.

The Provincial Treasury has appointed a service provider to develop an e-procurement tool which would assist in limiting instances of fraud and corruption within supply chain management processes.

This should be up and running in the latter part of next year. Scott said supply chain management was an area of increasing

concern and was the main contributor to irregular expenditure within provincial departments.

Addressing the issue of government debt, Scott said that although a special task team had completed its initial mandate on the reduction of government debt, it had become clear that the situation should be carefully monitored to ensure that arrears in certain areas did not occur again.

Arrears

The MEC confirmed that the provincial arrears debt of R465m had been reduced to R66m.

The majority of municipal debt remaining relates to rates levied against the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements and services to certain Section 21 not-for-profit schools.

"The task team is working with

the responsible departments to resolve these challenges speedily."

Scott said the Treasury would intensify its efforts to expand the provincial revenue base.

In particular, the Department of Health would look to boost its revenue collection through patient fees.

Interventions would also be explored with the Department of Transport to minimise the loss of motor vehicle licensing revenue to neighbouring provinces.

"We want every citizen to be a first-class citizen - every citizen a producer, nation builder and valued contributor, and every citizen a peacemaker," Scott said.

"We will work around the clock to ensure that public funds are spent wisely, transparently and towards the improvement of the lives of all."

KZN government admits grave errors

MHLABUNZIMA MEMELA
AND KHANYISANI NHLANGULELA

ALMOST two years after the tragic deaths of eight candidates shortlisted for trainee posts at the KwaZulu-Natal Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI), the provincial government has acknowledged grave errors on its part.

Disciplinary action will be taken against officials of the department of transport for their conduct that led to the applicants' deaths in December 2012, the premier said yesterday.

Premier Senzo Mchunu was speaking after the release of the long-awaited RTI commission of inquiry report, which probed the recruitment process that resulted in the deaths.

The commission recommended that those who did not suffer lasting effects be granted R10 000 each as compensation, while the compensation for families of the deceased was still to be determined.

More than 24 000 people applied for 90 RTI trainee posts in December 2012. About 47 000



COMPENSATION Senzo Mchunu with MEC for safety and liaison Willie Mchunu.

people showed up for the fitness test at the Harry Gwala Stadium in Pietermaritzburg on December 27 and a similar number the next day.

Scores of people were admitted to hospital after taking part in a 4km fitness test run. Seven died from dehydration and heatstroke, while an eighth person was reported to have committed suicide after failing the fitness test.

Flanked by transport, community safety and liaison MEC Willie Mchunu, the premier released the report after they spent time with the victims' families. The premier offered to work with the families of the victims to find closure and he officially handed over the report.

KZN- DOC, THE NEW AGE (KZN), 14 August 2014

Finance MEC to tighten expenditure

MHLABUNZIMA MEMELA

FINANCE MEC Belinda Scott has vowed to keep a close eye on the expenditures of all government departments to ensure that the province is on a sound financial path.

Scott's financial year budget allocation for 2014/15 is R878315m and represents a huge jump from the 2012/13 financial year allocation of R652971m. According to Scott, the provincial debt had been reduced from R466m to R86m, which she attributed to fiscal discipline.

Scott said the bulk of the municipal debt related to rates levied against human settlements, among other departments indebted to the province.

Scott tailored her budget to focus on speeding up service delivery.

"Public finance will continue with its robust monthly expenditure, revenue analysis, monthly presentation of the provincial budget performance and cash situation to the executive.

"Where there are signs of pressures, these will be attended to immediately so that the province's finances remain



PENNY WISE: Provincial finance MEC Belinda Scott is committed to ensuring that provincial spending is put under the microscope.

stable," Scott said.

During the past few years, the treasury had introduced reforms to facilitate

to ensure that the province obtained value for money.

"Treasury will assess all public entities and make recommendations on their revenue collection strategies, service delivery models and the funding assigned to them. The department will also research and recommend appropriate board remuneration rates," Scott said.

Scott said the department would intensify efforts to expand the provincial revenue base.

Fact box:

>The department of health to boost revenue collection from patient fees
>Interventions to minimise the loss of motor vehicle licensing revenue to other provinces

>The KZN Gaming and Betting Board and the KZN Liquor Authority are to increase revenue collections while ensuring that their social responsibilities are not compromised

>A fraud case management system will be used, among others, to record, consolidate and follow-up on all forensic investigations that are taking place.

the implementation of financial controls by the public entities, ensuring compliance with the statutory regulations and

KZN- DOC, THE NEW AGE (KZN), 14 August 2014

MEC pounces on 'corrupt' officials

SIBONISO SHIBA P1

COOPERATIVE governance and traditional affairs MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube has cracked the whip, suspending 25 municipality officials implicated in fraud, corruption and maladministration.

The Uthukela district municipality officials were suspended pending the investigation into irregularities for tampering with

the payroll to "sabotaging" of municipality water scheme.

"We would like to drive the message home that crime does not pay," Dube-Ncube said yesterday.

The officials were suspended pending investigations into irregularities ranging from tampering with the payroll to sabotage of the municipality water scheme where infrastructure was damaged to

create a need to provide work and services to people linked to them.

Dube-

Ncube said Nomusa Dube-Ncube

about R4m Ncube had been recovered and that those implicated would face criminal charges and would have to make



good what they stole from taxpayers' money.

"This is a clear message: we are turning local government around, also indicative of our new approach to local government where there are swift consequences for wrongdoing.

"We do not want officials to be on long suspensions while they continue to draw salaries."

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KZN- DOC, THE NEW AGE (KZN), 14 August 2014

We won't take your farms – Minister assures

QAMANTAH HUNTER **P4** and Fisheries, Senzeni Zokwana yesterday.

FARMERS should not worry, the government will not take away your land, was the message to farmers by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry

He was accompanied by

ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe in a round-table discussion with industry leaders on the challenges faced by the farming sector at the Gordon Institute of Business Science.

They insisted that land reform was vital, but allayed the fears of some farmers had that their land would be confiscated.

"Drive change, do not impose it. Every change is associated with loss. We must take charge of change," Mantashe said.

He urged farmers to take part in the policy-making process in a bid to influence policy on land in the country.

"Land reform is about dealing with the past and building the future. Share the country together, wherever we are," Mantashe said.

Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Gug-

ile Nkwinth had introduced a draft policy proposal which would see 50% of farmland be given to farm workers if passed into law, which he strongly defended.

"If to give 50% (of land) to farm workers is not a good idea, then what is a good idea?" Mantashe asked.

He said black farmers who wanted access to land wanted to make it productive.

Zokwana said that change would not be painful if it was done in a constructive way.

"We cannot be like Zimbabwe and sit and do nothing and then wake up to chaos," he said.

He said the opinions of farmers were important to the government.

Mohammed Karan of the National Planning Commission told the gathering that there were some concerns over land reform proposals.

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KZN- DOC, THE NEW AGE (KZN), 14 August 2014

MEC targets corruption

Education MEC says she will root out rampant criminality in school feeding scheme

XOLANI DLAMINI *PK*

THE KwaZulu-Natal department of education has taken steps to deal with corruption in the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

Education MEC Peggy Nkonyeni yesterday said they had identified a number of factors, including corruption, affecting the programme.

She said corruption in the department's district offices had led to delays in paying service providers.

"We are putting measures in place to get rid of the issue as soon as possible. We have also aimed at implementing the policy on the NSNP to deal with all challenges relating to school nutrition," Nkonyeni said.

Notwithstanding the challenges, the NSNP programme in the province was making an impact, with over 2.2 million pupils in 5 275 primary and secondary schools from quintile 1 to quintile 3 benefiting from it.

"This increase is attributed to the successful extension of the programme to public secondary schools" Nkonyeni said.

Nkonyeni, who was speaking at the tabling of her departmental budget in the legislature in Pietermaritzburg, said the emphasis would be on addressing challenges hampering the province's education programme.

She said the budget of R39 446bn in the 2014-15 financial year was up from R37,579bn last year.

There would be greater focus on improving infrastructure.

She warned that her department would not tolerate officials doing business with the government as this led to corruption.

She also said vacant positions would be filled.

"We have identified 966 posts, 12 of these are senior management posts

and 954 office-based educator posts. This has badly affected the working process. We aim to fill all vacant posts immediately," she said.

Nkonyeni said the student transport budget had been moved to the department of transport. The department of education is responsible for identifying pupils who need transport.

"It was important to clarify the mat-

ter because the public generally lacks the understanding of the current location of the function," she said.

She said her department in partnership with the police and the department of community safety and liaison would establish school safety committees in all schools immediately after school governing body elections in 2015.

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City plan to woo media under fire

LEE RONDANGER P9

THE elkwin Mudder party is tired of the bad press it receives. Its executive council, yesterday

Mayor James Naumato and city manager S. Du Sable plan to give the municipality a contract to spend \$165,000 for the mayor and city manager to meet the editors and journalists of media organizations in Durham and Burlington in an effort to "nurture a strong relationship."

visit journalists of 15 mainstream newspapers - including the Daily News - community newspapers and various radio and news television networks operating in Durrban.

ence and journalists and editors of *News24*, *Sunday Times*, *New Age*, *The Sun Group*, *Mall* and *Guardian*, *Business Day*, *ANN* and *ENCA*, in Johannesburg. A budget of R50 000 was approved for the Johannesburg visits. Most

A budget of \$73,000 was requested to meet the requirements of the Durham bureaus of national newspapers, community newspapers and "KZN bloggers" at venues that include the ICC, Moses

Maahda Saelim and the SEV
venue at the Maharani hotel.
No budget had been requested
for meetings with the Inde-
pendent group which includes the
Daily News, Mercury, Isolaw
and Sunday Tribune.

The DA's caucus leader Mkwango, called the communications unit report and request for funding "ridiculous."

The only way you are going to get the media to start talking about the municipality is if you get a clean audit," the town manager said. "You can't do it going to meet the media and expect them to write good

media coverage of the municipality over the past year was positive. "Even with negative stories, the voice of the municipality is always represented," the report said. "This represents a noteworthy

[illegible]

Good stories

"The miracle will write what they want and it does not matter if you meet them and you can't expect them to write only good things," he said.

According to the report during the first quarter of the current financial year the amount received from mostly positive media coverage, including 700,000

responsible. Navarro said he was surprised that Minchington knew so much about the workings of the media, suggesting he was acting as his spokesman. A congressional staffer told ABC's news controller, said that the network's coverage was biased on service delivery and

Love them or hate them, they are going to write what they want," he said.

ANC councillor Fuzwana Proc

...and illegal sales of RDP
houses," the report said.

"The creative media coverage
increased to 30.9 per cent, mainly
based on negative feedback from
members of the public, although at
the same time, several interests
don't

The report added that between March and May the communications department had received about 118 media enquiries. Thirty-four were still pending, owing to the fact that officials

ing to think the intention of the meetings is to get the media to write about the situation. It is about the same as when the CIA is about to launch an operation and the press is about to write about it. The CIA doesn't want the press to know what it is doing, and the press doesn't want to know what the CIA is doing. The CIA is about to launch an operation and the press is about to write about it. The CIA doesn't want the press to know what it is doing, and the press doesn't want to know what the CIA is doing.

According to the report, the city and county

Vandalism blamed for sewage leak

KAMCILLA PILLAY

PS
THE eThekweni municipality has blamed last week's sewage spill on vandalism and theft of city infrastructure.

The municipality made the claim yesterday evening, following inquiries by the Daily News.

"The city has a large department dedicated to repairing, replacing and upgrading sewers," said spokeswoman Tozi Mthethwa.

"However, vandalism and theft is a major cause of infrastructure failure, which can be catastrophic. Vandalism affects service delivery and impacts negatively on the municipality's ability to respond efficiently to the needs of its citizens. It also impacts on the accessibility of services by the customer."

A week after the spill, which caused waste to be released into the uMhlanga River and

was blamed on a malfunctioning pump at Waterloo, the city issued a warning to residents in the area to refrain from drinking, bathing or fishing in the river.

Residents complained of the stench, but were unaware of its cause until the delayed warning was issued by authorities.

Overflow

"The municipality assures residents that the issue of sewage overflow into the uMhlanga River is being addressed and monitored closely. Residents are urged not to use the water until such time that the municipality is satisfied that the quality of the river is back to normal."

Mthethwa added that the river was also being aerated to remediate any de-oxygenation effects.

"With regards to drinking river water, this should not be done in any urban river in

South Africa. This is owing to the fact that firstly, urban areas have treated water available for drinking. Secondly, urban run-off from rain is usually contaminated with pesticides, herbicides, fuel and other substances, and this runs directly into the river via the storm-water drains."

She added that in addition, in most of Africa there were a proliferation of informal settlements and businesses, which could contribute untreated sewage and greywater.

"This would make the river water unsuitable for drinking purposes without some form of treatment."

She said no city could guarantee the fitness of all rivers for swimming, particularly in countries where there were informal settlements.

People are urged to report vandalism or theft of municipal infrastructure to 080 131 3013.

Exiled writer coming home

MPHATHI NXUMALO PS

ARTS and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa is set to return from America with the remains of Durban anti-apartheid journalist Nat Nakasa next week.

The Supreme Court of New York has granted permission for the remains of the Chester-ville-born writer to be returned home.

The minister, who is part of a delegation of eight, will arrive in New York today where he will be met by the consul-general, George Monyemangene.

They will proceed straight to the Ferncliff cemetery where civil rights activist Malcolm X is buried a short distance away from Nakasa. The minister will be present

when the grave is opened, with the exhumation starting two days later.

The opening of Nakasa's grave will be followed on Saturday by a memorial service at the Broadway Presbyterian Church in New York.

The minister will return on Tuesday to King Shaka International Airport where he will

give a press conference.

Nakasa's remains will be kept at a mortuary before his reburial at Heroes' Acre in Chesterville on September 12.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Arts and Culture, Sandile Memela, said: "The return of Nakasa's remains is a significant achievement. His family could not afford and were not allowed to bring his remains back into the country. This will give them closure."

Memela said Nakasa was able to articulate the vision and dream of a "just and equal society".

He was part of the Drum magazine writers of the 1950s and '60s and was the first black writer at the Rand Daily Mail. He was awarded the Nieman fellowship at Harvard University.

His visa application was rejected and he left on an exit pass, meaning that he could not come back into the country. On July 14, 1965, it is said, he committed suicide by jumping out of a building.

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City plan to woo media under fire

LEE RONDGANGER

P4

THE eThekweni Municipality is tired of the bad press it receives. Its executive council yesterday gave the municipality's communication unit the go-ahead to spend R163 000 for the mayor and city manager to meet the editors and journalists of media organisations in Durban and Johannesburg in an effort to "nurture a strong relationship".

Mayor James Nxumalo and city manager S'bu Sithole plan to visit journalists of 15 mainstream newspapers – including the Daily News – community newspapers and various radio and news television bureaus operating in Durban.

Their "secondary targets" include the journalists and editors of News24, Sunday Times, New Age, The Sun Group, Mail and Guardian, Business Day, ANN7 and ENCA in Johannesburg. A budget of R60 000 was approved for the Johannesburg visits. Most of the Johannesburg news organisations have offices in Durban.

A budget of R73 000 was requested to meet the reporters of the Durban bureaus of national newspapers, community newspapers and "KZN bloggers" at venues that include the ICC, Moses Mabhida Stadium and the Sky venue at the Maharani hotel.

No budget had been requested for meetings with the Independent group, which includes the Daily News, Mercury, Isolezwe and Sunday Tribune.

The request raised the ire of opposition councillors who sit on the executive committee.

The DA's caucus leader, Zwakele Mncwango, called the communications unit report and request for funding "unbelievable".

"The only way you are going to get the media to start talking good about the municipality is if you get a clean audit."

there are (negative) reports is because the communications department takes two days to respond to media requests," Mncwango said to heckles from ANC councillors who asked him how he knew that.

"It's because you feed them negative stories," ANC councillor Nondumiso Cele charged.

Mncwango said it would be better if the city's leadership did an "introspection" on how they dealt with the media before they spent money on meeting it.

Good stories

"The media will write what they want and it does not matter if you meet them and you can't expect them to write only good stories," he said.

Responding, Nxumalo said he was surprised that Mncwango knew so much about the workings of the media, suggesting he was acting as its spokesman.

DA councillor Heinz De Boer, a former journalist, said that the city should consider the media's strict deadlines and try work around them if they were to improve relations.

"Love them or hate them they are going to write what they want," he said.

ANC councillor Fawzia Peer said the media needed to be transformed and "democratised".

"We can build 1 000 houses and you won't see anything (in the papers) but only the negative," she said.

Deputy city manager for governance, Sipho Cele, said it was wrong to think the intention of the meetings was to get the media to write good stories.

"It is about building and cementing relationships."

According to a report compiled by

media coverage of the municipality over the past year was positive. "Even with negative stories the voice of the municipality is always represented," the report said.

"This represents a departure from the previously non-responsive environment especially because the media was of the view that the municipality was not transparent about its affairs. This perception led to the increase in negative media coverage directed toward the municipality, especially the first quarter of the 2013/4 financial year."

According to the report, during the first quarter of the current financial year the mayor received mostly positive media coverage totalling 71.1 percent, focusing on municipal events, community engagements, marketing projects and campaigns.

"During the same period the mayor received 15.8 percent negative media coverage which focused on service delivery concerns and illegal sales of RDP houses," the report said.

"The negative media coverage increased to 20.9 percent mainly based on negative feedback from members of the public directed at the mayor and several protests due to complaints about the lack of services."

The report added that between March and May, the communications department had received about 119 media enquiries. Thirty-four were still pending, "owing to the fact that officials from certain departments are not forthcoming with information".

Healing at Nakasa's grave

Philippa Carson
Mercury Foreign Service

NEW YORK: The rain pelted down on the lush green grounds of Ferncliff Cemetery, Westchester, New York, on a late summer morning, as Nat Nakasa's relatives, including his only remaining sibling, Gladys Maphumulo, a niece and nephews were finally able to gather and pray at the graveside of the gifted and troubled author who died in exile and who has been buried here for almost 50 years.

Surrounded by a small cluster of people holding umbrellas, Maphumulo was overcome with emotion as she wiped away tears before laying flowers on the brass plaque bearing Nakasa's name.

There was a sense of closure that the family of the renowned journalist and writer, who died tragically at the age of 28 almost 50 years ago, after falling from a seven-storey building in Harlem, New York, were finally able to see his burial site and oversee the process of taking him home.

His remains will be exhumed and, after a church ceremony in Harlem, will be returned for burial near his home town of Chesterville, Durban.

Addressing the small gathering, which included Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa, Nakasa's nephew, Sipho Masondo, 54, said bringing back his uncle was a poignant moment of healing for the family and the country.

Mthethwa thanked the many who had assisted in the

process of bringing Nakasa back home, including US officials, the South African Department of Arts and Culture, as well as the government of KwaZulu-Natal and Durban city council. He also thanked those in exile with Nakasa at the time, including Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela and

Peter Magubane, who had helped bury him in New York.

Although Nakasa's death on July 14, 1965, was regarded as a suicide, there has been speculation since that the circumstances may have been more complicated. It came to light that Farfield, the organisation headed by Nakasa's benefactor,

John Thompson, whose home he was staying in, was an effort to combat communism and had links to the CIA.

Maphumulo said: "We are following our (former) president, Nelson Mandela. We don't want to go back to how he died or who killed him... We forgive. We are God's children."

Prosecutions boss fights back

Zelda Venter 52

IN A desperate bid to save his job, the national director of public prosecutions, Mxolisi Nxasana, turned to the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria for an urgent order preventing President Jacob Zuma from suspending him before he has the chance to make representations to the president.

Nxasana said in papers before Judge Joseph Raulinga that he had been told by Zuma he would be suspended pending an inquiry into his fitness to hold office.

He was told to make representations as to why he should not be suspended. He said he needed further particulars on the allegations against him and, without these, he could not properly fight his case.

Zuma's lawyer Michael Hu-ley, said the matter was postponed indefinitely in a bid to see whether they could come to an agreement. The president did not file opposing papers and the matter was postponed indefinitely. » 78

KZN TREASURY PULLS FUNDS

Shock as Durban air show is axed

Colleen Dardagan

A DECISION yesterday by KwaZulu-Natal Treasury officials to ground Durban's Land, Sea and Air Show and KZN Winter Air Tour for next year by pulling R36 million in funding has left the industry and affected district municipalities "shocked" and "devastated".

The decision also means the much-anticipated Zululand Race of Champions aviation event, scheduled for August 22 and 23, has had to be cancelled.

Zululand District municipality mayor, Mpiyakhe Hlatshwayo, told The Mercury last night the decision was not only a "shock", but had come too late for them to come up with alternative funding.

Hlatshwayo said it would take about R1.5m to get the event up and running again.

"This has cost us a lot. We have done our budgets for the year. We haven't been given any time to come up with another plan.

"The Protea Hotel was fully booked, we had a gala dinner

planned. All the B&Bs and the catering facilities made a lot of money out of this event."

MEC for Finance Belinda Scott said she was unaware of the decision and it was too late last night for her to give an official response. "However, what I do know is that we are in a fiscal blitz. Nice-to-haves are coming off the agenda," she said.

Investigation

According to provincial government insiders, who asked not to be named because the issue was "too sensitive", an investigation into the decision was under way.

Brian Emmenis, whose company, Capital Sounds/KZN Air Events, has managed the shows in partnership with the provincial government for the past three years, said he believed the decision was made because Scott was new in office and had not experienced the events, whereas previous head of Treasury, Ina Cronje, had attended them.

"I am shocked and devastated. We have become the des-

tination for the biggest aviation events in the country.

"We have hosted the largest number of people at any air shows in the country ever. We have come out with a clean audit, we have met all the requirements," he said.

"But yesterday we got a phone call saying our tender for the next three years had been turned down. No reasons were given, nothing."

He said 130 aircraft were scheduled to participate in the Zululand event.

Emmenis said he was now in talks to try to raise private funders for next year's season.

In May, the provincial Treasury's Clive Coetzee said that air shows were an integral part of the provincial government's plans to boost tourism in rural towns and that R30m had already been spent upgrading rural airports such as those at Ulundi, Margate, Richards Bay, Newcastle and Mkuze.

The attendance for the shows last year were: Newcastle 7 418, Mkuze 2 500, Ulundi 6 000, Richards Bay 1 635, Pietermaritzburg 2 444, and Margate 2 483.

Long-awaited building of new hospital starts

Bongani Hans

THE construction of the much anticipated Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital has started and it is expected to dramatically relieve pressure on the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Phoenix.

The project has been on hold after funds were used by the Health Department to finish the refurbishment of Addington Hospital.

Health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo told the provincial legislature yesterday that the department had secured R2.8 billion for the 500-bed institution, which would open in 2018.

Dhlomo said the hospital would cater for KwaMashu and Ntuzuma. The Dr John Dube Memorial Hospital in Inanda was also still in the pipeline.

He said the department had also set aside R1bn to build four hospitals in rural areas. However, he said, health service providers had also been trained to provide medication to pa-

tients at home. Dhlomo said that the department had introduced a 24-hour helicopter service to transport critically ill patients from outlying areas to hospitals in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

He also defended the department's stance on implanting contraceptives in female medical students studying in foreign countries. "Two students returned to the province today after falling pregnant," he said.

In her report to the legislature, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube said the recent earthquake had been a wake-up call.

Dube-Ncube said that the province had demonstrated its capability in dealing with veld fires and storms. The department had a budget of R1.3bn, of which R55 million was for disaster management. "We have reinforced our capacity and adjusted our plans to include earthquakes, cyclones and hurricanes," she said.

Families of recruits to be paid out

Sharika Regchand *PH*

COMPENSATION must be paid to the dependants of eight people who died during fitness tests carried out over two days in December 2012, and four officials of the Transport Department must be disciplined for their conduct.

These were among the recommendations made by a commission of inquiry set up in March last year to probe the deaths. The commission's 75-page report was discussed in the KZN executive council yesterday.

Afterwards, Premier Senzo Mchunu spoke to family members of the victims before addressing the media. Copies of the report were made available only to the families.

The eight people were among 40 700 job seekers applying for 90 jobs as traffic officers. The first phase of the selection process was a 5km run.

A salient finding of the commission was that there was no compliance with the Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act, which provided for the establishment of a "venue operation centre". Accordingly, the person in charge was supposed to be a member of the police force and the organiser had to put in place measures to ensure the safety and security of persons and their property.

Mchunu said the department had failed to book a stadium, arrange adequate medical measures, ensure that the ablution facilities were sufficient and that the stadium capacity of 13 000 was adhered to, and failed to ensure that there was adequate water for the participants.

He said the commission had also considered whether the test was consistent with the legislative and constitutional imperatives and found that in 2009, it was decided to introduce a 2.4km run as a measure of testing the fitness of recruits. However, there was no policy on this. The recommendations included that:

- Should the department wish to subject applicants to a strenuous physical test, it must develop a policy accordingly.

- The transport MEC and head of department must consider taking disciplinary steps against four officials (not yet named) for their conduct.

- The documents submitted to the commission as the minutes of the shortlisting committee should be referred to police for investigation.

- The MEC must also consider three affidavits placed before the commission which made serious allegations against a certain doctor.

- Those who did not suffer lasting effects and were listed in the main report be compensated R10 000.

Family members reacted with mixed emotions to the report yesterday. Some were happy with the findings and recommendations, while others said the matter was still not over. They had to decide on how much they wanted to be compensated after losing their loved ones: Sibonakaliso Mhlanga, 30, Lindokuhle Kunene, 30, Xolani Gumede, 29, Ntuthuko Sibisi, 28, Lenny Nxumalo, 28, Sanele Ngcobo, 22, Bongile Mbatha, 29, and Lungile Wamba, 30.

MEC for Transport Willie Mchunu said state law advisers would be briefed to consider the recommendations.

ANC 'won't force farmers off land'

Shanti Aboobaker 15

ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe moved to allay the fears of Afrikaner farmers yesterday, saying the ANC would not allow South Africa to go the route of Zimbabwe and forcibly remove white farmers from the land.

He was speaking at the Land Reform and Food Production Dialogue in Joburg.

Restitution and the history of land dispossession has become a politically charged issue again in South Africa with the recent emergence of the Economic Freedom Fighters, who have placed forcible expropriation of land from whites on the agenda.

But yesterday Mantashe repeated the ANC's rejection of this route, saying it had led directly to the collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar, the currency South Africa's neighbour had to abandon after years of hyperinflation and economic stagnation.

"The policy in the ANC is that land must be distributed to those who work it. The EFF talks about land every time, saying 'appropriation without compensation'.

We've seen what it's done," Mantashe said.

"The ANC will not do it. Now (Zimbabwe) is in ruin. I can assure you the ANC will not go that route."

Mantashe was addressing Afrikaner farmers, as well as some black farmers, during a session moderated by former National Party cabinet minister and constitutional negotiator Roelf Meyer.

The latter led the NP in negotiations with the ANC in the run-up to South Africa's first democratic elections, securing a number of constitutional guarantees to protect the political and economic interests of the white minority, such as market-based compensation for land reclaimed from white farmers and landowners.

Meyer later became a member of the ruling party.

The forum was convened in order to allay fears of businesses in the agricultural sector, who are concerned about whether they should continue to invest in South Africa because of statements they say come from the "far Left".

"Noise from the far Left and

recent comments (made by Land Affairs Minister Gugile Nkwinti) suggest we need a special purpose vehicle to help the process of land restitution," said a farmer from the Northern Cape who did not want to be named.

"Governments in the rest of Africa are investing heavily in agriculture," he said, highlighting Ethiopia and Kenya as examples.

Since its election to Parliament in last May's election, the EFF has got under the skin of white farmers by repeatedly threatening to use the state to seize land from whites without compensation.

The party has offered to "help" the ANC over the parliamentary two-thirds majority needed to remove the property protection clause in the country's constitution, which obliges the state to compensate citizens whose property is appropriated for whatever reason.

The government, business and the ANC agreed to set up a working group to formalise the assurances given by Mantashe, as well as to promote mentorships and apprenticeships for emerging, smallholder farmers.

Zuma joins false qualifications debate

Babalo Ndenze

Political Bureau

PEOPLE who falsify their academic qualifications face being disqualified from employment in the public sector, according to President Jacob Zuma.

He made the remarks as members of the cabinet called for tougher action and even prosecution for people found to have falsified their qualifications.

Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande "noted with concern" the increasing incidents of qualification fraud, saying suspected fraudulent activity should be referred to the police for investigation and prosecution.

The furore around false qualifications follows the resignation of ANC stalwart and former Arts and Culture Minister Pallo Jordan this week, who was found to have falsified his academic qualifications.

Replying to a written question from Cope leader Mosiuoa Lekota, Zuma said the government had a system in place where applicants could be disqualified from employment in the public service for falsifying qualifications and in matters such as the abuse of women, which could lead to dismissal.

Lekota had asked the president whether the government had a "clear policy" on disqualifying applicants who misrepresented their qualifications.

He also asked whether the policy covered employees who withheld any damaging information, "battered or abused women" and those who did not

have their tax affairs in order.

"Yes, a system is in place whereby applicants can be disqualified from employment in the public service.

"With effect from January 1, 2008, departments have had to conduct pre-employment verifications in respect of a candidate before an appointment or the filling of a post is affected," said Zuma.

He said the verification included criminal record checks and citizenship verification.

Damaging

"In cases where an applicant deliberately misrepresents their qualifications or withheld damaging information, such an act can establish acceptable grounds for the rejection of an application.

"All Public Servants are required to abide by the Code of Conduct.

"Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct results in disciplinary action and possible dismissal," said Zuma.

He said matters such as the abuse of women, problematic tax affairs and the circumstances for leaving previous employment would be considered during criminal record checks, financial and assets records checks as well the previous employment verification.

Zuma told The Mercury this week there was no reason why Jordan should resign from the party. He said there was nothing much Jordan could have done and that he made a mistake.

KZN- DOC, ISOLEZWE, 14 August 2014

MHLENGI SHANGASE

YASHUBA eyabakokotela iziqu nama-CV abo nengoba ubhongoqoshe weMfundo ePhakeme uDkt Blade Nzimande efuna baboshwe abenza lokhu

UNzimande uthe ziyanda izigameko zokukokotela kweziqu kuleli. Ufuna ukuthi abaqashi baqale bazibungule bazihole ngaphambi kokuba baqashe umuntu.

Uthe lokhu kuzobeka engcupheni zinga lemfundo kuleli ngoba nalabo abathole iziqu ngeridle eqondile kuzoba

'Kumele baboshwe abakokotela iziqu P6

nemibuzo ngazo ngeke zisathenjwa.

"Ngjhele ukuxhumana nabezontetho kuleli ngokukokotela kweziqu ukuze kuqace ukuthi yinto esingathambisani nayo.

"Abayotholalela ukuthi bayathinteka kulokhu kumele badluliselwe emaphoyiseni ukuze baboshwe," kusho uNzimande

Uthe umsebenzi abawenzayo

emnyangweni uveza ukuthi umkhonyo weziqu wenzeka kuwona mqhe amaziga kuleli nasemazweni angaphandle.

Uqhuba watsho South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) enjela neziqu zangaphandle ithole ukuthi ziyanda zehlakalo zokukokotela kweziqu nasohleweni lokudhlekwa kweziqu zangaphandle

"SAQA isezintlelo zokugqelela ukuthi izifikele ezikhuphayo azibona ombombayi. Lezi zintlelo zifaka nokukwazi ukuthonza kalula lezo ziqu zangaphandle okungezona

"Kukhona abangenamhloni abathenga iziqu bese bezifaka kuma-CV abo uma befaka izicelo zomsebenzi," kusho uNzimande

Uthe iNational Learner Records Database isebenzisana nomnyango wakhe namaphoyisa, bazocinisa umkhankaso wokulwa nezikhungo ezingabhaliswe.

Umxuse abazali nabafundi ukuthi baxhumane nomnyango uma befuna ukugqinisekisa ukubhaliswa kwezikhungo ngalezo zikhungo ezingabhalisile futhi ubikele namaphoyisa.

"Kumele silivikele izinga leziqu zethu nomphakathi amungayithathi kancane indaba yeziqu ezikokoteliwe," kusho uNzimande.

KZN- DOC, ISOLEZWE, 14 August 2014

CELANI SIKHAKHANE

RS

OMASIPALA bakwazulu-Natal abawuhlupho nabaphethiwe ngokubambisana uKhongolose ne-NFP bazogqashwa ngelokhozi unulumeni wesifundazwe ukuze kuqinisekise ukuthi izinkunga zokungaboni ngaso linye ngokwezopolitiki aziphazamisi ukuyiswa kwezidingo kubantu.

ebiyethulwa uNgqongqoshe uNomusa Dube-Ncube esiSiyantlatho eMgungundlovu izolo. UNK Dube-Ncube ubechaza ngezintlelo ezahlukeni zalo nyaka mali ka-2014/2015 ezithinta uMnyango wakhe nakhose ngazo ukwenza ngcono ukusibenza komasipala nokulwa nenkohlakalo nokuphucula ukusibenza

kwesakhimo sobuhle boMdabu. “Ukuze siethle ubuhlobo obuqotho kulabo masipala esizokwenza ukuthi bonke omasipala abasohlweni lokuphatywa ngokubambisana sizobafaka ngaphansi kweso elbarazi ukuze siqiniseke ukuthi izingxabano eziba khona ngokwezopolitiki azikhiyalebezi ukusibenza komasipala. Ngaphandle kwalokho sizobheka kabanzi

ukusibenza kwalelo nalelo khansela kulabo masipala.” usho kanje. UNK Dube-Ncube uweze nokuthi kunyaka wezimali ka-2014/2015 mali ezonikezwa omasipala izoba ngu R3.2 billion kanti kuzokwenzwa ngcono zindawo ezisenakhiya zifakwe ugesi namanzi. Amaqembu aphelelayo ayamukele

ngezindlela ezahlukeni inkulamo kanti Dube Ncube yokuncoma omasipala abenze kahle eKZN. UMrhuz George Mavi we-DA uthe akukho okungaqatshulwa ngoba baningi omasipala abasagcwele inkohlakalo kanti nemisebenzi ikhishelwa izihlobo nabangani kodwa akukho oqeswayo ngalokho. Inkosi uMzamo Buthelez we-IFP khafe ngodaba wamakhosi ethe awar akhwe iningi lawo alinathabisa yize sekuphele iminyaka engu-20 elakulel lakhutleka.

Kuzokwakhiwa isibhedlela KwaMashu

LUNGI LANGA

SEKUMI ngomumo ngokwakhiwa kwesibhedlela saKwaMashu, iPixley KaSeme, okulindeleke ukuthi siphungule umthamo weziguli eziya esibhedlela sasePhoenix, iMahatma Gandhi Memorial.

Lokhu kuvezwe nguNgqongqoshe wezeMpilo KwaZulu-Natal, uDkt Sibongiseni Dhlomo, ngesikhathi ethula inkulumbo yesabelomali izolo ezindlini zesiShayamthetho eMgungundlovu. Lo mnyango ubekelwe u-R30.9 billion phakathi kuka-2014/15.

Kuzoqala kulo nyaka ukwakhiwa kwalesi sikhungo okulindeleke ukuthi sibize umnyango u-R2.8 billion. Sizokwakhiwa iminyaka emine.

"Sinehemba lokuthi ukuba khona kwalesi sibhedlela kuzophungula umthamo weziguli

eziya eMahatma Gandhi. Igqilazeke kakhulu njengoba igcina seyiblinzeka usizo lwezempilo emphakathini eminingi okubalwa iPhoenix, KwaMashu, eNanda, Ntuzuma nezinye izindawo ezisondelene nalesi sibhedlela," kusho uDhlomo.

Ubuziwe ukuthi ngabe zikhona yini izinhlelo zokwehlisa umthwalo esibhedlela iPrince Mshiyeni Memorial nayo ebukeka inomthamo omningi weziguli. UDhlomo uthe akulula ukuthi bangakha esinye isibhedlela okwamanje njengoba kunemiphakathi engezazo izibhedlela ezibhekele-yona.

Uthe izinhlelo abanazo ukukhulula isibhedlela iMshiyeni wukwenza isivumelwano noMasipala weTheku ukuze bathathe imitholampilo kamasipala.

Uveze ukuthi sekunezingxoxo mayelana nokuthi imitholampilo kamasipala ithathwe wuhulumeni ukuze isebenze ubusuku bonke.

"Okwamanje isibhedlela saseMshiyeni sibuye sigqilazwe nawukuthi imitholampilo eyakhelene naso ayivuli ubusuku bonke. Lokhu kusho ukuthi uma umuntu elimala uphuthunyiswa eMshiyeni ngisho kunenkinga encane ebingalungiswa emtholampilo," kusho uDhlomo.

Uthe bazimisele ngokwakha esinye isibhedlela eNanda kodwa lokhu kuzothatha isikhathi ukuze kuhlelwe.

Uphinde wakuqinisekisa ukuthi ukulungiswa kwezinye izibhedlela okubalwa kuzo i-Addington kusa hamba kahle. Kulindeleke ukuthi kuphele ngoDisemba kulo nyaka ukulungiswa kwe-Addington.

Uthe izibhedlela zikahulumeni kungenzeka kubukeke engathi ziyahfulwa ngezizimele kodwa lokhu kudalwa ukuphathwa kwezikhungo.

Uthe udaba lwenkontileka

'I know the STORY BEHIND THE STORY'

Project manager says he has co-operated fully with SIU probe

MARYNA LAMPRECHT

CAPE TOWN — Nkandla's project manager hopes the "real truth" will emerge when the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) completes its Nkandla investigation.

Jean Rindl, project manager at the Durban regional office of the Department of Public Works (DPW), was tasked with implementing the security improvements to President Jacob Zuma's private estate at Nkandla. The Public Protector's report on Nkandla refers 105 times to Rindl and his name is also in the court papers in which the SIU has filed civil claims. Mineable Makhanya, Zuma's "personal architect" to reoccupy R155.3 million.

Rindl yesterday told court papers that he had given his full co-operation to the SIU during its probe of Nkandla.

"I know the story behind the story," he said. He did not want to say what the "real truth" is concerning Nkandla.

Rindl has appointed Makhanya to the role of project manager. Nkandla in 2009, acting on behalf of the director general of Public Works. The SIU said this appointment was illegal, invalid and contrary to Public Works tender regulations.

The SIU's court papers read that Makhanya's appointment was done on the request of Rindl and the acting director general of DPW, Solly Malebye, and both knew or ought to have known Makhanya's name was not on the department's list of registered service providers.

The SIU stated Rindl and Malebye knew or had to know their provision on its own did not constitute a reason to depart from the tender procedure.

The SIU said the civil claim against Makhanya is the first in the Nkandla affair and more civil claims, as well as criminal charges, may follow.

Rindl said he was not aware of any prosecution involving him. "I do not know if I will be charged. I am waiting to hear."

He did not want to say whose decision it was to appoint Makhanya as the main agent and whether the order had come from Zuma.

Nkandlagate



TOTAL SPENT
R216 million

Bonifera Construction	R35.2m	Lifts	31 new buildings
Mohoyimane 310	R57.6m		
Minentle Makhanya Architects	R17m		
R&G/Ngalethu Consultants	R13.8m		
E Magubane	R10.8m		
Betafence Projects	R9.2m	Security fencing	Bullet resistant glass
Ibongo Consultants	R6m		
Ramcon	R5.1m		
Mustapha and Caenalla	R3.7m		
CA du Toit	R2.7m	CCTV	Homes for police and soldiers
Igonda Projects	R2.5m		
Natal Park Homes	R2.4m		
Otis	R2.1m		
Pro-Hydraulics	R275 250		

Source: Special Investigating Unit

Graphic: A24

Zulu monarch snubs Nkandla architect in palace project

JEFF WICKS

THE Zulu Royal Household has publicly rebuffed the architect Jacob Zuma's personal architect, Minentle Makhanya, stating he will not design the Zulu king's new palace.

The Nkandla architect had been widely reported as the lead architect appointed to design Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini's eighth palace in KwaNobumba near Thulam.

But this week, in the wake of being saddled with the R155 million bill to settle for his involvement in the building of the President's Nkandla household, Makhanya was dropped.

Royal Household spokesperson Prince Thlam Zulu said that Makhanya would play no part in the palace project.

"He [Makhanya] will have no involvement in the palace. I can assure you of that," he said.

"I do not know where this is coming from, but he will not be involved in the construction of the king's palace," Zulu added.

Court papers filed by the Special Investigating Unit in the Pietermaritzburg High Court this week snubbed Makhanya with the blame for soaring costs on the Nkandla project.

Under his administration, the costs rose from a budgeted R28 million to more than R146 million, the SIU said.

The unit also said his appointment was illegal as it circumvented the tendering or open tender process was followed.

He had been appointed in spite of him not being on the department of Public Works' list of registered suppliers.

Makhanya allegedly authorised improvements that were not specified in the tender for or which were regarded as necessary.

The Zulu palace, understood to be worth over R30 million, will be funded privately.

The unit also said to complete the project have been privately sought from business associates of Prince Buthe Zwelithini, who has commercial interests in Ezemvelo KZN.

As the lead architect, Makhanya would have designed the palace, and taken responsibility for the crafting of budgets, as well as tenders and procurement. The palace project, as still pending approval of the Department of Environmental Affairs, as the location is in the ezemvelo KZN's Ezemvelo KZN Park.

Reports of Makhanya's alleged involvement in the project have been reported for the project for days before he was named as the first respondent in the hitherto court papers.

The move yesterday by the monarch further isolates the embattled architect who has 20 days to respond in writing to the SIU's civil claim.

Powers of new ministers transferred in line with mandates

SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI

THE government has finally transferred the powers and functions of new ministers who were appointed by President Jacob Zuma in May to head new departments.

Minister of Public Service and Administration Collins Chabane yesterday notified Parliament that he has transferred the powers in line with the mandates of the new ministries.

This has also been done as it is the requirement of Parliament, said Chabane in a letter to the speaker, Baleka Mbete.

Chabane said in line with Section 97 of the Constitution, which authorises the president to delegate him to transfer the powers and functions of ministers, he was effecting the changes that were prompted by the establishment of the new ministries.

In the letter Chabane outlined various functions, laws and enti-

ties transferred from one minister to the new minister.

Chabane said powers related to posts and telecommunications have been transferred from Communications Minister Faith Muthambi to Posts and Telecommunications Minister Siyabonga Cwele.

Matters of electronic communication no longer reside with Muthambi, but now under Cwele.

Under the new administration, Muthambi is now in charge

of performance monitoring and evaluation, which was under the Minister in the Presidency Jeff Radebe.

Muthambi is now in charge of broadcast matters and their entities.

Chabane also said matters related to film and publications have been removed from Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba to Cwele.

The Media Development and Diversity Agency has been relo-

cated from Radebe's office to Muthambi while the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) will remain in Radebe's office.

Deputy Minister in the Presidency Buti Manamela oversees the work of the NYDA and last month he defended the agency in Parliament against calls from the opposition that it should be scrapped because it was wasting money.

The work of the State Informa-

tion Technology Agency will no longer be overseen by Chabane at public service and administration, but has been moved to Cwele at posts and telecommunications.

A number of projects and operations from environment to conservation and sea management have been removed from Minister of Water Affairs and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane to Minister Edna Molewa at Environmental Affairs.

Small Business Development

Minister Lindiwe Zulu has had a number of laws and projects, relating to small businesses falling under trade and industry, transferred to her department.

Zulu will now oversee legislation relating to small business enterprises, close corporations and cooperatives.

This was the work done under Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies before the changes after the May elections.

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