

**VOTE 4 : NFP DEBATE ON ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIROMENTAL  
AFFAIRS  
12 May 2015**

HON SPEAKER  
HON MEC  
HON MEMBERS

Honorable Members, fundamentally the NFP is convinced that economy, jobs and poverty are interlinked issues. We believe that job creation is the ultimate weapon against xenophobic attacks, discrimination, poverty and inequality. Our government has a responsibility to intervene and protect people's jobs when it is necessary. Therefore, the economic growth is the only solution for creating sustainable quality jobs ( Hhayi Amatoho).

With reference to the recent heartless and barbaric xenophobic attacks, it is evident that people are angry and suspicious of the government because of broken promises; our people have a perception that foreigners and friends of politicians exclusively enjoy the resources and are given a special treatment. South Africans feel being side-lined in the cake of democracy and they also feel being robbed of their right to employment.

Hon Members, the harsh reality is that the province of KwaZulu Natal is suffering from:

- A high rate of unemployment especially amongst youth and women.
- Skills shortage

- Economic fever - the provincial and national economy are unable to create decent sustainable jobs.
- More than a million jobs have been lost through retrenchment since 1994. Privatization of jobs that were originally owned by the government departments has done more harm than good.
- Failure of our provincial economic growth to absorb new entrants into the labour market. (sibhizi ngamatoho nama intern nawo aqasha ngobuqembu.) Prospective interns are asked to submit a letter from their councillors. As the NFP we view this as a way of excluding those of the opposition parties.

Our economy suffers from jobless growth due to the confusion created by Cadre Deployment and Institutionalized Corruption. As the government voted by people, you need to recognize your mandate and responsibility that you have towards the people of KZN, intervene, create jobs not promises and protect their current existing domestic jobs and businesses. Once you do that, we won't experience the stupidity of the xenophobic attacks again. Don't be a government that does not care about its people and is not willing to accept responsibility for their welfare and prosperity.

Hon Speaker, Ithala Bank (The Politicians Milky Cow) and other financial institutions funded by our KZN Government to service the poor are just other worrying factors. These institutions are not well marketed or advertised. The reason for such lack of exposure is obvious; as much as Ithala Bank was meant to service the poor, which only exists on paper, because their interest rate is as high as that of other banks; there is no

leniency in terms of giving loans to those previously disadvantaged. This government funded institution still considers the securities and ITC - CREDIT BERUE before the grant you help. Even those that have managed to get loans to start businesses are not mentored.

Okwasemakhaya kuyaxaka I don't think ukuthi baningi kangakanani abazi ngo TIK no TKZN and their services. Hleze kuvota abase madolobheni kuphela nokuyibona okumele basizakale.

There is a high number of people who are being excluded from being financially assisted by the afore mentioned formal financial institutions and other credit sectors, because their funding and qualifying procedures are not transparent. Ithala is the government entity and should operate as such.

Hon Members we have the highest number of untrained registered cooperatives in the province and most of them are ineffective and dis-functional due to lack of funding, opportunities and skills. Cooperatives in rural areas and in townships are still struggling to achieve their goals. People formed these important entities responding to our government call, but they are neither trained nor given opportunities. The fact that most of them are dysfunctional is due to lack off mentoring and guidance. In fact due to their ineffectiveness, most of them are on the verge of de-registered, whilst others have already collapsed or only exist by name only. We request our provincial government to help them.

Hon Members, the NFP welcomes and applauds the department for giving out bursaries, however there is an area of concern;

bursaries were given to prospective students in 2014; however there is still an outcry of the shortage of people with IT skills. It goes without saying that the skills shortage plan was not done before awarding bursaries.

It is worth noting that Compensation of Employees shows an increasing trend for the current financial year. This upward trend is caused by the Adjusted Appropriation which is driven by delays in filling of vacancies or posts. The question is, why did it take us long fill those vacancies? Which are those posts? When are they going to be filled? In filling those vacancies Hon Minister please consider skills and qualification as opposed to cadre deployment.

Hon Members, the NFP is seriously concerned about the process it takes when someone is applying for a liquor license. People end up being victims of bogus consultants or agencies. Please something needs to be done on issuing of liquor licenses. It is also surprising that some bottle stores and/ or taverns are being built and they operate closer to public or government institutions like schools, hospitals, etc and put our civil servants at risk of losing their jobs; and they also expose our schooling children into an alcoholic environment. What are the liquor regulations and policy are saying about that? And why is the law not enforced?

It has been widely reported on the media fraternity that some of our children and teachers either attend classes under the influence of alcohol or bunk classes but are seen in taverns. The employment crisis in the province of KwaZulu- Natal has many causes. Therefore the NFP welcomes and applauds some

government initiatives to provide about R3million to SMEs and Small Trading Associations especial the intervention done during the xenophobic attacks.

However, there is an urgent need for our government to invest on textile industries and to accommodate skilled and unskilled labour. The department must also attract our youth and women to actively participate in tourism and be involved in green economy. By adhering to this call, I strongly believe that more jobs will be created.

“Trees are falling down, they scatter the seeds, the caterpillar is dying, the butterfly is born...” Song by Stimela

In closing, as the people of KZN, we still need a state-led economic growth and development strategy to address the problems of poverty, unemployment, inequality and to strengthen our democracy.

Thank you !!

Presented by : Hon S Mdakane MPL - NFP