

POLICY SPEECH

2020-21

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
TOURISM 2020/21 POLICY SPEECH**

Honourable MEC Mlungisi Mvoko

26 May 2020

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Premier

Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Heads of Departments

Chief Executive Officers of our Public Entities

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Honourable Speaker who would have thought that when the Honourable Premier, in his State of the Province Address, boldly declaring that 2020 – 2024 would be the era of job creation and socio-economic development, shortly after the entire World would be faced with a global health pandemic - the likes of which this generation has never experienced anything similar.

When we first crafted our plans for the 2020 medium term strategic framework we had never anticipated the health and socio-economic crisis that we are facing right now, and so it has necessitated that we rethink our approach in making the best use of the resources at our disposal to be able to have the highest impact in supporting our economy and citizens of our province.

We must acknowledge Honourable Speaker that as government we cannot achieve this feat on our own and have to work together with the private sector and our social partners to ensure that we can overcome this crisis and work towards rebuilding and growing the Eastern Cape together. It is no longer “business as usual” and we must be innovative and constructive in our approach.

Through this crisis we have been active in our Economic, Tourism and Business workstream in engaging with approximately 2000 to 2500 Eastern Cape companies who report weekly on various aspects of business operations including revenue, supply chain disruptions and job impact. It has been indicated that between 10 000 to 20 000 jobs may be lost if the disruption to normal economic activity continues beyond three months.

Honourable Speaker, with the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects likely to last beyond this financial year, our focus, as mandated to drive economic development and environmental sustainability in the Eastern Cape, will be on:

- The fight to save jobs in the province
- Post lock-down economic recovery
- Environmental sustainability

The fight to save jobs in the province

Whilst long term economic growth and sustainability remains our focus over the next five years, our focus now is on saving as many jobs as possible. We are doing this through our existing, but somewhat repackaged products.

(a) Support to the Tourism Sector

Honourable Speaker the impact on the tourism sector has been massive and therefore we need to continue to invest in the sector during lockdown to ensure that the sector survives. We are working with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the Department of Health to make use of graded facilities for isolation and quarantine in order to protect jobs and businesses.

We will continue to aggressively build the profile of the Eastern Cape through brand repositioning. We are investing in digital marketing and virtual tours to make the province a desirable destination when travel becomes possible.

The Department will aggressively provide information support to the tourism sector to enable them to tap into national support such as the Tourism Relief Fund. A Provincial Tourism Fund Relief will have to be established, working with Provincial Treasury and the Tourism Industry.

(b) Supporting manufactures and SMMEs

SMMEs are particularly vulnerable during this time and hence we are implementing various SMME support processes including linking SMMEs to COVID-19 national relief funds We are collaborating with the national Department of Small Business Development on the training of DEDEAT, ECDC and Municipal Officials, facilitating the flow of factual information as it relates to SMMEs and ensuring that all national relief funds find expression locally in the Province.

On a positive note, Honourable Speaker, during this pandemic the production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) promises to provide some relief to local manufacturers. The Department has been diligently working on increasing the capacity of manufacturers and related service companies to supply PPE for the COVID-19 response. Work has been undertaken to link Eastern Cape manufacturers to national transversal procurement processes. Though collaboration with DRDAR they have now initiated a process of supporting SMMEs to produce protective masks locally. Work is also underway regarding the expansion of possible capable suppliers in terms of the Provincial Local Economic Development

Procurement Framework. DEDEAT has developed an implementation plan for developing local PPE suppliers.

Through our Manufacturing Support Centre, we have a web-based point of entry for businesses to register and log their request for support to alleviate economic distress. This Centre provides support to deal with all the distress cases and the formulation of intervention plans to support affected businesses. An amount of R640,000 has been provided in the current budget to support this initiative.

(c) Informal Traders

Honourable Speaker it is crucial that our informal traders are not left behind in our support efforts. We are strengthening our collaboration with municipalities and SASSA alongside the development of a consolidated database of informal traders for us to be able to facilitate more responsive support processes.

Going forward Honourable Speaker, it will be necessary to allocate additional resources for the implementation of the Provincial Informal Business Strategy and Implementation Plan. Furthermore, it will be necessary to develop a Business Licencing Policy to support the Office of the Consumer Protector and maintain registration of businesses in all sectors in the Eastern Cape. It will also be necessary to formalise an institutional framework for the support of the informal economy and ensuring that there is an aggressive push towards graduation to the formal sector through provision of the correct information on the benefits of being formal thus enabling the SMMEs to contribute to the economy meaningfully. We will be engaging the Provincial Treasury on the issue of funding.

(d) Jobs Stimulus Fund

Honourable Members, the Jobs Stimulus Fund has its purpose in incentivising the retention of jobs located within the province in key priority sectors which in turn will promote sustainable job creation. We have R17 million available within our current budget to support the retention of jobs to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy of the Eastern Cape. It is anticipated that the Jobs Fund policy will be reviewed shortly to allow for a more responsive process for disbursement to COVID-19 Distressed companies, including SMMEs.

(e) Isiqalo Youth Fund

The Isiqalo Youth Fund was launched during Youth Month (June) in 2019 to provide financial and non-financial support to youth owned enterprises with legally registered enterprises, located and operating in the Eastern Cape. The Fund is targeting 100% youth owned enterprises operating or seeking to operate in the Eastern Cap and offers a wider range of funding and technical support services across a wide spectrum of sectors to emerging youth owned enterprises. At this time the R25 million available in the Fund will be utilised to provide

emergency funding support to qualifying youth owned-enterprises, to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on youth enterprises.

(f) Local and Regional Economic Development (LRED) Fund

Utilising the R19 million allocated to the Fund we will promote and administer sustainable economic development and employment creation interventions by supporting Eastern Cape based entities to contribute towards economic growth and efforts to lessen the impact of the pandemic on the economy.

(g) Eastern Cape Provincial Economic Stimulus Fund

In the 2019/20 financial year, a total of 15 initiatives, with a total value of approximately R250 million were allocated funding. These initiatives cover industrialisation support, ICT, Agriculture and Agro Processing, Manufacturing, Oceans Economy, Tourism, Township and Rural Economies and the Film Sector.

Whilst the structure of the Fund is not changed, we will utilise a budget of approximately R360 million to advance infrastructure development and/or the creation of enabling conditions to unlock an entire ecosystem of enterprises and/or an entire value chain of economic opportunities thus mitigating the effects of the pandemic.

(h) Consumer Protection

Not only are our citizens suffering economic hardship as a result of job losses caused by the pandemic, but they are also victims of unscrupulous suppliers who seek to benefit from the pandemic. The Department will continue to monitor the activity of primary agriculture, abattoirs, bakeries and fresh produce, ports, airports and fuel supplies to detect any threats to essential economic services and food security. Food prices of a “basket of groceries” is used to detect any unfair price hikes or business practices. Instances of unfair pricing are investigated by the Office of the Consumer Protector.

(i) Disaster support from the private sector

Among areas of collaboration between the public and private sector, Independent Power Producers and Non-Profit Organisations in the Province have in many cases offered support to the COVID-19 Disaster Process. An IPP/NPO/DEDEAT working group has been established to facilitate closer coordination between these sectors and the government disaster response process.

Post lock-down economic recovery

Honourable Speaker, ongoing work will take place to ensure economic relief and recovery during and post-lockdown. We will track and monitor the re-opening of the industries and sectors based on the regulations, identifying challenges and opportunities for improvement. We will provide institutional support to industries and municipalities in dealing with the challenges encountered as well as exploitation of business opportunities. We will also facilitate quick situational understanding of sector challenges and ensure dynamic responses to questions of interpretation or requests for clarification from national government.

(a) Auto, Non-Auto and Tooling Sectors

Through the EC Automotive Industry Forum, EC Non-Automotive Manufacturing Cluster and the EC Tooling Initiative the Department is partnering with the Tier 1 automotive component sector and NAM sectors (plastics, chemicals and metals) to improve efficiencies, drive supplier and skills development initiatives, in addition to driving the localization of tooling imported from outside South Africa by the Automotive and Non-Automotive sectors and initiate skills programmes in the tooling sector to enhance capability in the sector.

(b) Agro-processing sector

The department will continue to support agro-processing initiatives aimed at building the local value chains coupled with a transformation agenda for broader participation of previously disadvantaged individuals in the sector.

Innovation and diversification within the agro industry sector will remain as one of the drivers for competitiveness thus providing for new entrants within the traditional value chains. The Department has already established collaborations with national bodies such as the Technology Innovation Agency to support innovation in the Province.

The opening of the agro processing industries, such as forestry related industries, linked with the lockdown levels will require continuous information sharing, especially with enforcement agencies. As such industry engagements for readiness and compliance with regulations remains critical and we will continue to monitor and support the sector.

The Department will continue to provide institutional support to agro-processing enterprises which logged calls through the Manufacturing Support Centre. Agro-processing companies have been in distress due to a market reduction linked with the national lockdown as the food outlets and the hospitality industry were shut down. The development of new markets such as Government procurement needs to be unlocked.

(c) Tourism sector

In order to prevent a total collapse of the sector we will strengthen destination marketing and tourism products to protect niche markets like hunting. Furthermore, we will support transport, accommodation, conferencing and hospitality products to meet COVID-19 industry expectations of hygiene and infection control.

Unify the sector through the establishment of a shared brand, branding collateral, brand ethic and brand behaviour will be crucial. Together with the EC Parks and Tourism Agency we will re-engineer tourism offerings to focus on unique features that the province offers a post-Coronavirus world.

The Department will support tourism administrations, at both the district/metro and local municipality level, in boosting marketing efforts.

In line with the recommendations of the World Tourism Organisation, we will develop and roll out a digital campaign to support tourism, under the global tourism recovery hashtag **#TravelTomorrow**.

In order to showcase the talent in the Eastern Cape, we will host virtual concerts on social media platforms such as Instagram Live.

(d) Small business support

Honourable Speaker, the direct and indirect support to SMMEs will continue to form an important focus of the Provincial Government. There is a focus on strengthened collaboration and integration between National Relief Instruments and Provincial and Local Government support. Numerous support instruments and processes have already been initiated:

- Isiqalo Youth Fund and LRED Fund
- Training of DEDEAT, ECDC and Municipal officials in support of National DSBD Relief Processes
- Development of a database of SMME's registered with municipalities and strengthen stakeholder relations with municipalities
- Support a virtual enterprise development ecosystem
- Support Business incubation
- Implementation of the Provincial Informal Business Strategy and Implementation Plan 2019-2024

(e) Provincial SMME Fund

The Eastern Cape Provincial Government is collaborating with uBank on setting up a Provincial SMME Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. We are finalising a memorandum of agreement, with both parties committing with an initial contribution of R200m each for a period three years. Whilst more details will be announced in due course, the agreement will see uBank providing financial assistance to qualifying SMMEs through

direct lending channels for blended finance, short and long term loans, working capital and giving support to government for activities which are deemed to be beneficial to the parties and their common objectives.

(f) Informal traders

Beyond COVID-19 we will continue to work on migrating informal traders from the informal to the formal sector. We will focus on:

- *regulatory compliance* through the review of by laws governing business activities, business licensing, and enactment of policies by municipalities,
- *skills development and capacity building* through partnerships with SETA's, TVET Colleges, and other institutions of higher learning,
- *providing infrastructure* support through decent trading facilities for street traders with ablution facilities or warehousing facilities or manufacturing hubs,
- *institutional support* in the form of incubation programmes or market facilities and organisational support to exhibitions or open trade markets, and
- *partnerships* with the ILO, Department of Small Business Development, COGTA, SETA's, TVET Colleges and other institutions of higher learning.

(g) ICT sector

The national lockdown has forced the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) into the mainstream and the Province has rightly identified the ICT sector as strategic for the advancement of industrial and technological development of the province. There are a number of programmes currently under way. In one of these the Department is engaging with investors and funders for the landing of an Indian Ocean Xchange (IOX) Subsea Cable System at the ELIDZ. The IOX submarine cable aims to connect India, Africa, South East Asia and Europe to the Indian Ocean islands and will provide high speed and low latency network access to enhance businesses in these geographies and across industries. This will be the Province's first international sea cable and will account for an investment of nearly R300 million.

The ELIDZ has been cementing its Science and Technology Park as an important player in the technology-led innovation of the province's industrial sector. Our focus in this year will be on the upgrading of skills in the province in line with the future requirements of industry.

(h) Oceans economy

On 06 March 2020 the Province launched the Oceans Economy Masterplan. The Masterplan provides us with a blueprint, a vision and implementable plan that will ensure the growth of the economy of the Province to new heights. The successful implementation and coordination of the catalytic portfolio will see the establishment of a sustainable oceans economy industrial ecology, which will drive socio-economic development, whilst demonstrating the attractiveness of the Eastern Cape Oceans Economy as an investment destination. Through

this strategic roadmap we plan to achieve our targets of contributing R10,4 billion to our provincial GDP, whilst creating an estimated 33 785 jobs, during the first five years of implementation.

The Department is well poised to play a strong role in ensuring that the vision and plans that are contained in the Masterplan are implemented to the latter.

(i) Cannabis industry development

The development of the Cannabis Industry remains a priority for the province owing to its potential to impact the provincial economy through both medical and industrial use. The focus has been strengthened by the Provincial Canadian Study Tour on Cannabis which confirmed that legislation and policy are critical for its development. Engagements with the National Departments and Authorities are underway for an inclusive cannabis legislation which is intended to include the rural communities of the province, especially the Pondoland. The Provincial Executive has granted a go ahead for the SEZs and Industrial Parks to be aggressive in attracting investors under the current legislation regime. We are pleased that there are already signed letters of intent for both our SEZs.

(j) Energy supply

As we are all aware, before the COVID19 Disaster, South Africa went through a period of constrained energy supply which caused a severe impact on the National and Provincial economy. While energy demand was reduced over the lock-down period, our energy supplies will nevertheless remain tight for a while to come. The Eastern Cape is feeling the consequences of the national energy situation. However, there has been progress in the Province towards supporting the national electricity grid.

The Eastern Cape has 16 wind farms and 1 solar farm, at an estimated value of R33.4 Billion. 13 of these facilities have already been constructed, while the remaining 4 are currently under construction. The commissioned facilities are already generating over 200 million units (kWh) of electricity a quarter – contributing on average 30% of the provincial electricity requirement.

The Eastern Cape is well positioned to scale up wind, solar and gas power generation significantly. In October 2019, the Hon Minister of Energy published the Integrated Resource Plan which sets out the required new energy build that must take place over the next 10 years in order to keep the lights on. The new energy mix provides for the construction of thousands of megawatts of wind farms, solar farms, gas-fired power plants, and roof-top solar systems, among others, which translates to hundreds of billions of Rands in new investment. With its excellent wind and solar resources, together with an ideal situation for Liquid Natural Gas at the Coega SEZ, the Eastern Cape is well positioned to host a major portion of the national new energy build. While these new build facilities would primarily plug the power gap, they also represent a significant opportunity for catalytic economic recovery and job creation in the Province.

Under its Wind and Solar farm support programme, the Department is working to unlock the opportunities for new wind and solar farms in appropriate areas in the Province. Particular focus is placed on overcoming the obstacles to renewable energy in the former homelands; while paying attention to infrastructure challenges such as sufficient Grid Transmission Infrastructure. Furthermore, through a number of programmes, the department focuses on supporting optimal socio-economic outcomes in the communities where the wind farms are situated.

This year marks the commissioning of the Eastern Cape minigrid project where 67 households in the Raymond Mhlaba municipality have been electrified by means of a stand-alone hybrid renewable energy minigrid. While we experienced loadshedding in January and February this year, the lights in the village of Upper Blinkwater remained on. This represents blueprint for a new form of service delivery in deep rural areas.

In 2019, the Honourable Minister of Energy pronounced the Coega SEZ as the initial hub for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in South Africa. The short-term outlook is to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) to trigger the Gas economy, which would stimulate the exploration and production of indigenous gas resources in the Eastern Cape, as heralded by the Billion Barrel Brulpadda Oil and Gas find. This find has opened up the South and Eastern Coast of South Africa as a new petroleum province.

The Gas Hub at Coega represents a concrete step towards the creation of a thriving, inclusive, job rich oil and gas sector in the province. The Eastern Cape is truly positioned to support national energy security while benefitting from the transformational economic opportunities of new energy infrastructure. We will continue to pursue all avenues to ensure that we take hold of these opportunities for the benefit of the people of our Province.

Environmental sustainability

(a) Recycling and waste management

Waste management throughout the Province is proving to be a major challenge to local authorities. The Department has issued administrative notices to non-compliant municipalities which have failed to manage their landfill sites in accordance with their waste management licences. We will remain steadfast in ensuring that in cases where municipalities have failed to comply with notices, criminal cases are opened, and dockets submitted to the NPA for prosecution.

South Africa's commitment to sustainable development is aimed at balancing the broader economic and social challenges whilst protecting environmental resources. For the waste sector in South Africa this means care must be taken to ensure wise consumption and production patterns, resource efficiency, waste prevention and minimization and waste reuse and recovery.

The economy has mainly operated on a 'take-make-dispose' basis. A transition to a circular economy shifts the focus to reusing, repairing, refurbishing, re-purposing, recycling and upcycling. Recycling rates are influenced by the quality of recovered materials and the economic viability of recycling operations. Opportunities for improvement may not reside in the already well-developed markets (i.e. glass, paper, plastics and cans). The real potential lies in unexplored markets such as: tyres, e-Waste, organic waste, construction and demolition waste, obsolete cars, for example.

Moving waste up the hierarchy towards reuse, recycling and recovery contributes to the principles of a 'green economy' in several ways:

- Re-introduction of resources back into the economy,
- Contribution to economic growth and job creation, and
- Reducing social and environmental costs (externalities).

Indeed, inherent recycling opportunities exist with regards to legacy stocks in e-waste, construction and demolition waste and organic waste. The Eastern Cape could be at a strategic advantage to build on existing infrastructure to facilitate the growth of the recycling economy and creating direct jobs and induced SMMEs to support the growing appetite. This is a priority that will receive our focus in the year ahead but requires the involvement and collaboration of many stakeholders. One such opportunity that can be explored is the piloting of plastic roads proposed in the Eastern Cape. It is estimated that 1km of road could use 1 million plastic bags. This is an opportunity worth exploring!

(b) Bioprospecting

The Department is involved in the initiatives of setting up systems for Bioprospecting potential in the Province. With the implementation of the bioprospecting in the country, the Province has been amongst the first provinces to champion and conclude a Benefit Sharing Agreement with the beneficiaries in line with the Nagoya Protocol.

The agreement gives the Khoi and San communities 1.5% of the value of every kilogram of Rooibos Tea that is sold by farmers. At the current value of Rooibos Tea sales, it is estimated that this amounts to approximately R12 million per annum.

The Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan has been developed and it will be gazetted for implementation in the 2020/21 financial year. All our systems are defined and classified in terms of their vulnerability and sensitivity. The plan is strategically aligned to SPLUMA with emphasis on implementation of NEMA.

(c) Climate change

Climate Change is already triggering large-scale spatial, temporal and compositional shifts in biodiversity. Species population-level changes are being translated into community-level reorganisations, even regime shifts which can impair ecological function. Intact biodiversity

supports ecosystem functioning and can increase resilience to climate change impacts in both natural and managed systems with significant benefits for people under all likely climate scenarios this century. Currently South Africa awaits the finalization of the Climate Change Bill. The Eastern Cape Provincial Climate Change Response Strategy will be reviewed in alignment with the Climate Change Act inclusive of full costing implications for its implementation by various stakeholders.

Climate change impacts have not spared the province and this manifestation can be seen in the droughts, floods, intense storms and significant bush fires being experienced in the recent past in the province. The Department has, with a limited budget, responded and joined forces with civil society and cleared grasslands of alien invasive species to ensure water and food security for residents. It has worked tirelessly, behind the scenes, to provide emergency authorizations so that water can be provided in order to respond to the drought.

The unlawful clearing of forest and thicket vegetation remains a challenge that threatens the environment and contributes to climate change. We have issued notices to prominent farmers in the Sarah Baartman District to cease with the clearing of natural vegetation and to rehabilitate the land. We will remain vigilant in our efforts to combat such crimes.

The Department will focus on developing capacity to implement and monitor the implementation of all Climate Change work being undertaken by Provincial and Local Government. The Department has established an Air Quality and Climate Change Forum which co-ordinates the activities of Municipalities, as well as sister Departments, to discuss adaptation and mitigation initiatives implementation.

(d) Biodiversity, coastal and special management areas

The Department is the Provincial Lead Agency in coastal management and is working with the national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) and municipalities to pilot the implementation of Special Management Areas (SMAs). In this regard, we have assisted Ngqushwa and King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipalities to develop and submit proposals for declaration of SMAs in terms of Section 23 of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act No. 24 of 2008) (ICM Act), as amended. This initiative will introduce management actions to protect the resources, such as fishing, shellgrit collection, and firewood, that are utilised by communities in these areas for their livelihoods. With available funding, we will look at training the local communities to take part in alternative livelihoods.

The National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA) was published in 2019 and it highlighted the estuaries as being the most threatened ecosystem. As such, government must take actions to manage estuaries. The Eastern Cape has the most estuaries in the country (approx. 50%) and most estuaries that are in a good condition are in the Eastern Cape (Garden Route and Wild Coast). Estuaries are an important resource for economic development through providing, for example, fish breeding grounds, climate regulation, and tourism opportunities

in coastal communities. It is critical, therefore, that these ecosystems are conserved for the benefit of our people.

One of the key objectives of the ICM Act is the provision of reasonable access to the coastal public property. In this regard, the Department, working along with the Mquma Local Municipality has submitted a proposal with DEFF for planning and development of coastal access infrastructure in Qolora. A planner will be introduced to the Province and Municipalities in the new financial year and as such the work will continue.

We are balancing our conservation efforts of the Wild Coast area with sustainable development by implementing a Wild Coast Environmental Management Plan. In implementing this plan, nine coastal settlements in the Amathole Region have been mapped and issued with permits. This initiative will ensure that various government departments and entities will be able to bring infrastructure to those communities and make the lives of our people better. Two more settlements will be mapped in the new financial year with the focus being on the OR Tambo Region.

(e) Compliance and enforcement

Honourable Speaker, the national lockdown has not left the environment unscathed as opportunists seek to take advantage of the situation. There have been more than 300 reported incidents of illegal hunting with packs of dogs since the 27th of March 2020. Together with SAPS (especially Stock Theft Units) and Honorary Nature Conservation Officers appointed by our Department, we have made 52 arrests. Two SAPS officials have been amongst those arrested. Prior to COVID-19 and the national lockdown we saw an average of approximately 15 reported poaching incidents per month. This means that there has been a tenfold or 1,000 percent increase in illegal hunting with dogs. The poaching has been mainly on commercial farms, government farms and state forest areas where forestry have not had a presence. The impact on Compliance and Enforcement workload has been immense as officials have had to respond to complaints every weekend and after normal working hours. We do not have sufficient personnel to investigate this amount of poaching. We have made provision in our Annual Recruitment Plan for the sourcing of additional compliance and enforcement officials.

On the positive side, there has been a reduction of crimes involving trade in endangered species. No rhino or cycad cases have been reported during the COVID-19 19 lockdown. NEMA 'brown' crimes are down – for example, no major pollution spillages or illegal development crime has been reported. Illegal sand mining has reduced, although there are reports from Mazepa Bay, Nqabarha and Tenza. We made two arrests of sand miners at Tenza during a joint Phakisa operation. Our *modus operandi* is to link with other enforcement agencies to try and cope with the environmental crimes during lockdown.

The COVID-19 situation has definitely changed the focus of environmental crime. Poaching has not only increased by 1,000 percent but appears to be on a far larger scale with more animals being killed. This is often linked with stock theft on farms and may be to supply an increased demand for meat. It may also be malicious because people have more time on their

hands to poach with dog packs, and there is a large gambling industry associated with this practice.

I would like to take this opportunity, Honourable Speaker, to personally thank the “Green Scorpions” for their dedication and service to the province in the protection of our environment.

(f) Expanded Public Works Programme

Approximately R20 million has been provided for the implementation of Environmental EPWP projects. These projects will focus on waste management and the eradication of alien and invasive species. It is estimated that these projects will create 570 jobs targeting women, youth and people with disabilities. They will be implemented in the following municipalities:

- Raymond Mhlaba: R5.0 million
- KSD: R2.5 million
- Sakhisizwe: R2.5 million
- Amahlathi: R6.6 million
- Koukamma: R3.5 million

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker, the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown are not yet known, and so we continue to engage, gather economic intelligence and implement strategies to offer the best solutions and support to assist our economy through the pandemic and beyond. In doing so, it remains pertinent that we partner and work together coherently to meet the challenges together. **Sisonke sinokufezekisa okungakumbi**

Honourable Speaker, I herewith table the Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans for the Department and the six public entities for which we are responsible, and the Service Delivery Improvement Plan for the Department. These plans have been impacted by the change in priority resulting from our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but in the interest of cost saving we have not reprinted these plans. Therefore, it is important that these plans are read in conjunction with the errata tabled herewith.

Thank you

Hon. (MPL) M. Mvoko
Executive Authority of MEC for Finance, Economic Development,
Environmental Affairs & Tourism