

**BUDGET VOTE OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD - VOTE 10  
DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE SIBUSISO  
NDEBELE PREMIER OF THE PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-  
NATAL ON 15 APRIL 2008**

Chairperson

Speaker

Deputy Speaker

His Majesty the King, Hlanga Lomhlabathi

Members of the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Members of the Royal Family

Mayors and Councillors

Amakhosi Present

Director-General and Heads of Department

Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

## **Introduction**

I am presenting the Royal Household Budget for 2008/2009. For this Government, the issue of Traditional Leadership in this province has been one of the upper-most in entrenching our democratic value system and enhancing service delivery.

In our previous budget we indicated that His Majesty the King would be formally recognized with defined powers and roles by the Government of KwaZulu-Natal and legislation. This has now been fulfilled.

As we stated, we wanted to have the Monarchy recognized as a symbol of pride and unity for the people of KwaZulu-Natal and to transform the institution to be a self-sustaining one as part of this province's economic and cultural development.

In this regard we have, in the course of 2007, passed the Royal Household Trust Act.

Together with this act, the KwaZulu-Natal Traditional Leadership and Governance Act (Act no 5 of 2005) we have given full recognition to the role of traditional leadership in our province. This has not been the case before. We have subsequently established the Royal Household Trust.

### **KwaZulu-Natal Royal Household Trust Act, 2007**

Act No. 2 of 2007, the KwaZulu-Natal Royal Household Trust Act, marks a milestone in the history of KwaZulu-Natal and the Royal Household. Through this legislation, the KZN Provincial Government has made it possible for the Royal Household to reach its full potential.

The Act establishes a statutory Trust to be administered for the benefit of the Monarch and other members of the Royal Household. Section 3 of the Act makes it abundantly clear that the Trust must benefit His Majesty and the Royal Household, including their –

- (a) material welfare;
- (b) educational needs;

- (c) aspirations; and
- (d) social well-being, befitting their status.

The Trust is a juristic person and a provincial public entity subject to the Public Finance Management Act, 1999. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees. Its financial statements must be audited by the Auditor-General and fulfill all the requirements of the PFMA. The Trust is to be funded, amongst others, by monies appropriated by the Provincial Legislature, donations or contributions from any lawful source.

The Board of Trustees of the Trust, and His Majesty and the Royal Household, now have at their disposal the legal framework and the legal mechanism to ensure that the Zulu Monarchy and the Royal Household reach their fullest potential.

As head of the Provincial Government, I urge all role-players and stakeholders to make the fullest use of the KwaZulu-Natal Royal Household Trust which has great potential benefits to be unlocked for His Majesty and the Royal Household.

The Board of Trustees of the Trust must resolve to use this opportunity afforded by the KwaZulu-Natal Royal Household Act.

Chairperson, in order to effectively balance the requirements of the PFMA and the special needs of the monarchy, we are developing policy guidelines and regulations which will be finalized by the end of August 2008.

Further to this and with the aim of enhancing the capacity of the Royal Household, we are appointing key personnel including a Chief Financial Officer and other administrative staff to attend to issues such as administration and protocol. These will report directly to the Director-General.

## **BUDGET REVIEW**

Chairperson, for the 2008/2009 financial year, the Department of the Royal Household is allocated an overall budget of R39.356 million. It should be noted that government is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all the Kings' palaces.

A technical report is being compiled to determine the state of the palaces and the funding requirements thereof.

Staff rationalization will be undertaken in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. We are proud of our role in the restoration of dignity to the Royal House and the institution of traditional leadership in KwaZulu-Natal.

The budget allocation is broken down into the following programmes:

**Programme 1: Administration-Support Services to His Majesty the King (R22, 001 million)**

This programme will continue to provide the required support to His Majesty the King and members of the Royal Family.

**Programme 2: Planning and Development (R14, 725 million).**

This programme caters for the running of His Majesty's Palaces.

**Programme 3: His Majesty the King's Farms (R 2, 630 million)**

His Majesty the King's farms play a pivotal role and also contribute towards the socio-economic development of the province.

Chairperson, at the beginning of my term of office we said that by 2009 there should be no outstanding issues in KwaZulu-Natal. I therefore look forward to the successful implementation of all our prioritized programme of activities of the Royal Household.

Masisukume Sakhe!