



MEDIA INVITE

Tuesday, 04 April 2017

MEC SIHLE ZIKALALA TO GAUGE THE VIEWS OF INFORMAL TRADERS, PROGRESSIVE PROFESSIONALS AHEAD OF BUDGET POLICY SPEECH

IN a move that typifies participatory democracy in action, the KZN MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Mr. Sihle Zikalala will this week engage with various stakeholders in a pre-budget consultation process ahead of his budget policy speech which he will deliver later this month.

The two-day pre-budget consultation process, which kicks off on Thursday, 6 April 2017 at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall, will see MEC Zikalala interacting with Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), Co-operatives as well as informal traders.

Thereafter, on Friday, 7 April 2017, MEC Zikalala will proceed to Durban to engage with the Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF), a multi-disciplinary body representing professionals from various backgrounds brought together by the common vision of contributing towards the growth of our society and the country.

Remarking ahead of the consultative meetings, MEC Zikalala described the gatherings as being of “critical importance to the fulfillment of the province’s radical economic transformation ideals.”

“As a government that prides itself on observing the tenets of participatory democracy and community participation, we deemed it appropriate that we consult with those whom we felt would provide us with important feedback and guidelines as we prepare to deliver to the Legislature our annual departmental budget speech.

But, more importantly, as we forge ahead with our plans to radically transform the economy for the benefit of Black Africans in general and the youth and women in particular, it would have been erroneous of us to not canvass the views of those who are most adversely affected by the inequality gap in our society,” the MEC said.

Members of the media are invited to attend the Pre-budget consultative forums as follows:

Date: **Thursday, 6 April 2017**

Venue: **PMB City Hall**

Time: **10:30am**

Dates: **Friday, 7 April 2017**

Venue: **Coastlands Hotel, Umhlanga**

Time: **7am**

Issued by the Ministry for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

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