

Sukuma Sakhe Visit: Premier Pleased with Government Intervention

By Sonica Naudé-Steyn

The greater Kokstad area was abuzz last Wednesday with members of the provincial executive accompanying the KZN Premier, Sihle Zikalala in conducting a service delivery oversight as part of Cabinet Operation Sukuma Sakhe.

Premiers Zikalala, accompanied by Cogta MEC Mr Siphon Hlomuka, was very pleased following his visit to the 'infamous' Elonwabeni Home for the Frail Aged and said that government intervention has worked well for the facility. Elonwabeni was facing closure following alleged mismanagement of funds and maladministration which often led to residents going without food, water and electricity for prolonged periods.

"The provincial government has had several engagements with various stakeholders, and there have been interventions on the part of government to ensure the safety of the elderly residents. We are here to assess the impact of the interventions we have made to save this very important facility from closing down. The provincial government is happy that its interventions have stabilised the facility. As a caring government, we felt it was necessary to step in and ensure that our grandmothers and fathers receive quality services," said the Premier.

The Premier added that government had disbanded the previous errant board and appointed an administrator and that the allegations of mismanagement of funds had been reported to the police for investigation.

"We are now in the process of ensuring that a new board comprising of men and women who have integrity is appointed as soon as possible to run this facility. We are happy so far with the investigations relating to the allegations of mismanagement of funds by the center manager including the old age grants of the residents," the Premier added.

Other members of the Provincial Executive visited various other sites and engaged with local communities about issues affecting the communities in question. The operation not only served as a platform for engaging with the community but also afforded government the opportunity to update communities about government programs being carried out within the municipality.

The members included MEC T.M. Kaunda - Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, MEC Kwazi Mshengu - Education, MEC Ravi Pillay - Finance, MEC N. Dube-Neube - Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs, MEC Peggy Nkonyeni- Human Settlements and Public Works, MEC Bongwiwe Sithole-Moloi - Agriculture & Rural Development, MEC Nonhlanhla Khoza - Social Development and MEC Hlengiwe Mavimbela - Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation.



KZN Premier, Sihle Zikalala at Elonwabeni Home for the Frail Aged in Bhongweni as part of the Cabinet Operation Sukuma Sakhe.



Health screenings being conducted at the Bhongweni Youth Centre during last Wednesday's Operation Sukuma Sakhe.



KZN MEC for Education, Kwazi Mshengu officially opening the Bhongweni Hostel following renovations by the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality.



KZN Finance MEC, Ravi Pillay joined municipal traffic officers at a roadblock where the officers also showcased the new 'Number plate recognition machine'.