

# Poverty persists in KZN

THE NEW AGE - TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2015  
NOKUTHULA NTULI

HIGH unemployment and poverty persist after apartheid despite the significant extension and provision of services and income to people who were previously excluded from these basic benefits, agriculture MEC Cyril Xaba said.

He was speaking at the opening of the KZN Regional and Local Economic Development summit in Durban yesterday.

"Inequality, unemployment and poverty remain our key challenge just over 20 years into our democracy. This challenge has both structural and cyclical aspects which are both within and outside of our control," he said.

Company bank deposits were at a record high at R690bn, according to Stanlib Asset Management in a recent article in Moneyweb.

"This high level of deposits reflect that companies are not using their capital for fixed investment in property, plant and equipment and are a reflection of weak investor confidence" Xaba said.

He said this was a main contributor to slow economic growth.

However, Xaba said it was not all doom and gloom as manufacturing, at more than 16% in KZN, was still a major contributor to the economy and reflected a high degree of industrialisation in the province.

"It is however disappointing that agriculture which is diversified and KZN as SA's leading producer of timber and

sugar, made such a small contribution (4.3%)."

He said the agriculture and manufacturing sectors were interrelated and could be the key drivers of KZN's economy.

In order to address spatial disparities the province plans to support the decentralisation of industries and employment opportunities.

Besides the two special economic zones at Dube Tradeport and Richards Bay, Xaba said plans were afoot to establish an auto supplier park in Durban, a renewable energy park in Ilembe, agri-processing parks in Zululand, Umkhanyakude and Ugu, a furniture and dairy cluster in Harry Gwala, an electronics hub in Uthukela, a leather production hub in Umgungundlovu and a clothing and textile hub in Amajuba.

"The province also seeks to support locally based businesses and township based traders as part of a broader strategy to stem xenophobic violence and support small business development."

Xaba said the province was working with provincial and national stakeholders to position King Shaka International Airport as a passenger and cargo hub for SA so that goods manufactured in the province could be exported to international markets.

The summit continues today with discussions on issues such as poverty eradication brought on by the drought that has crippled the province.



Cyril Xaba

## Warrant out for murder accused



**LOSING PATIENCE:** Sadtu provincial secretary Nomarashiya Caluza wants to see justice served. PICTURE: PHUMLANI THABETHE

XOLANI DLAMINI AND  
SIBONGISENI MAPHUMULO

A WARRANT of arrest has been issued for an accused in the murder case of Nyonemhlophe High School principal Nkosinathi Zondi after he failed to appear in the Durban High Court yesterday.

Xolani Myeza, who is out on bail failed to turn up in court for the alleged cash-for-jobs murder trial yesterday.

Lungani Mkhize, Mhlengi Luthuli, Andile Zulu, Lungisani Makhoba and Mfundo Sibiyi were in court to face

charges of murdering Zondi, 46, at his home in Umlazi on May 2013.

The murder happened less than two weeks after Zondi was elected chairperson of SA Democratic Teacher's Union (Sadtu) in the Ugu region.

"The explanations given for his failure to be in court are insufficient. In the circumstances, a fresh warrant of arrest is issued against him and his cash bail forfeited to the state," judge Phillip Nkosi said.

Myeza's attorney Ben Dlamini told the court that he had tried to contact Myeza but his cellphone was off.

Alleged shooter Ndolile Shezi and go-between, and Khathi High School governing body chairperson Sandile Msizi, who police say organised the hit for R12000 at Sibiyi's insistence have turned state witness.

Sadtu provincial secretary, Nomarashiya Caluza, said: "We so wish that the state will finally put the matter to rest and ensure that justice is finally served."

The case was adjourned to December 10.