



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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VUKUZAKHE CONTRACTORS BID FAREWELL TO OUTGOING PREMIER

Head of Transport in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr. C Hlabisa will officiate at a farewell function arranged by Vukuzakhe contractors in honoring the outgoing Premier Dr. Sbu Ndebele for his contribution in creating a platform for small contractors to emerge. The event will take place on Saturday, **16 May 2009 at Woodburn Stadium in Pietermaritzburg starting at 09:00.**

Vukuzakhe is an emerging contractor development programme which focuses on wealth and job creation in communities that have been mostly disadvantaged historically. The programme was piloted in 1994 as part of the Roads for Rural Development Programme which then had a budget of only R3 million. Today more than one thousand contracts are awarded annually to emerging contractors with a value of more than R200 million. Dr Sbu Ndebele was championing this initiative while he was the Minister of Transport in the Province of KZN with the main purpose of eradicating and creating jobs.

To date, the Vukuzakhe programme and contractors have created a substantial number of jobs, mostly in rural areas where unemployment is high. The Department has invested about R10 billion in the Vukuzakhe programme from 1998 up to 2008. There are 29 140 registered Vukuzakhe Contractors in the province. There are 32 Local Associations as per RRTFs and four regional associations, 100 learner ships were awarded for the construction contractors NQF Level 2 learner ship and 88 received the full qualification.

"Central to the lasting eradication of poverty is the creation of a growing business sector that creates sustainable jobs which in turn, increases the productivity of our country. The small business sector must reflect economic empowerment for ordinary citizens and not just the upper echelons of society and Dr Ndebele played a pivotal role in making it a reality," said Cele.

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