



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

**MEDIA INVITE**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**  
**DATE: 17 MARCH 2011**

**THREE MEC'S, ONE COMMUNITY, AND MANY CHALLENGES – GOVERNMENT BRINGING HOPE TO A COMMUNITY DEVASTATED BY POVERTY & UNDERDEVELOPMENT**

The KwaZulu-Natal government will, on **Friday 18 March 2011**, bring hope to the community of Hlabisa which has had its share of poverty, disease and underdevelopment. A largely female and young population of Hlabisa will now have a primary school, a clinic and be economically connected with the economic hub through the opening of a provincial road, P451.

The majority (58%) of Hlabisa community are less than 20 years of age which is under the 'economically active group'. The 'economically active group' between the ages of 20 – 50 years, accounts for only 35% of the population. 44% of the population has never been to school at all, 16% having attended up to primary level, 12% have completed matriculation and only 3% have enrolled for post-matric studies.

According to the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), unemployment rate in Hlabisa has increased from 62.1% in 1996 to 72.9% in 1996. Women are mostly unemployed (65, 3%) due to illiteracy. The majority of school children (94%) need to walk great distances to school. 50% walk more than 30km.

It is also one of the communities with a high HIV prevalence. It is highest in the age group of 25-29 years, followed by the age category of 30-34 which accounts for 30.8% of people who are HIV positive.

Government will officially open three key projects that will address the triple burden of disease, illiteracy and underdevelopment; especially high HIV/TB prevalence; poor road infrastructure and high unemployment rate and high illiteracy rates.

Journalists and reporters are invited to attend the event which will take place as follows:

**Date : 18 March 2011 (Friday)**  
**Time : 10h00 (opening of projects to start at 08h00)**  
**Venu : Dengane Sports grounds**  
**Nhlwathi, Hlabisa**

***Transport is available for those who want to attend and will depart from the Durban Playhouse at 06h00.***

Issued jointly by:

**DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Kwanele Ncalane- 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755**

**Media Liaison & Public Relations Directorate**

Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 Republic of South Africa  
Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Republic of South Africa  
Tel: (27) (33) 355 8624 Fax: (27) (33) 355 8632  
Internet: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za>