

**STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS
BY THE HONORABLE SIBUSISO NDEBELE
PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL
8 FEBRUARY 2006: PIETERMARITZBURG**

His Majesty the King, Hlanga Lomhlabathi
Speaker;
Deputy Speaker;
Members of the Provincial Executive Council;
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;
Mayors and Councillors of Local Government;
Amakhosi Present;
Heads of departments;
Excellencies, members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;
Schoolchildren from Richmond, Trust Freed and around Pietermaritzburg who have come to hear us;
People of KwaZulu-Natal

A VISION FOR SOCIAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

1. INTRODUCTION

For four hours on the 28th and 29th January more than 1.2 billion people in 122 countries had their eyes glued on Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, and over 100 000 spectators converged around the city's racetrack as it proudly hosted South Africa's first ever A1 Grand Prix. And we certainly did our province and our country proud, delivering a world-class event and putting ourselves on the global map as a winning destination.

In the past year, KwaZulu-Natal has burst out off the starting blocks and is blazing a trail to international recognition and regional prosperity. In fact KwaZulu-Natal is well and truly in the race – be it by masterful handling of our canoes in the annual, world-renowned Dusi Canoe Marathon; by foot in the Comrades Marathon, on horseback in the Durban July Handicap – and last but certainly not least, using an infinitely advanced form of horsepower, in the driving seat of the international A1 Grand Prix.

We have shown again to the world that we do indeed have the will and the skill to thrill an international audience. We have once and for all dispelled the myth of Third-World ineptitude by effectively placing the Province and South Africa on the world map for hosting high-tech sporting events.

KwaZulu-Natal leads the race

Among those present at the event were: Sheikh Al-Maqtoum, the founder of A1, major business leaders, many of whom are contemplating KwaZulu-Natal as the next site for corporate expansion, King Leruo Molotlegi of the Bafokeng, our own King Goodwill Zwelithini, Bishop Lekganyane of the Zion Christian Church and Dave Richards, who chairs the UK's Premier Football League,

Allow me to briefly paint a picture of the phenomenal victory that hosting the A1 Grand Prix represented for the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Accolades received in the media acknowledged this feat. An article published in the Sunday Times on Jan 29, 2006 read as follows:

“Durban business has been booming on the back of the successful organization of the A1 Grand Prix in the city. Hotels and restaurants have been operating at near capacity as visitors flocked into the city for the event.”

What Durban achieved in securing the Grand Prix is absolutely mind-boggling when we consider that this is a World Cup consisting of 25 competing nations, with 12 hosting countries. Amongst these 12 countries, we have won the race of nations with South Africa as the chosen country, and Durban, the preferred venue. KwaZulu-Natal also managed to beat to the post Gauteng, who boasts an established world-class racetrack, Kyalami. Then, once we secured the prized host status, we more than delivered the goods, winning a contract to host the Grand Prix for a further three years.

In the words of Emerson Fittipaldi, former Brazilian Formula 1 Racing champion
“I have never seen such a race in my life!”

And the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal wants its citizens to know that the Grand Prix was not a flash in the pan but rather a sign of things to come.

My message to holiday makers who spend their time in KwaZulu-Natal over the festive season is: *“Come to KwaZulu-Natal for the best and cheapest Christmas you can ever have. By the 15th January go back to enrol your children at schools. Come back by the 22nd January for the World Cup Motor Sport A1 Grand Prix which will be held every last weekend of January”.*

World Cup, here we come!

We are proud to announce that the 2010 Soccer World Cup semi-final will be contested right here in Durban,

In partnership with the eThekweni Municipality, the Provincial and National Government, and the South African Football Association, we will spend R1.6 Billion towards building an Iconic stadium.

Nothing was obvious or easy in securing the World Cup semi-finals for KwaZulu-Natal. We did it. Nothing was easy to secure the building of a world class soccer stadium which KwaZulu-Natal never had. After the meeting attended by National, affected Premiers and affected Metros, a colleague Premier expressed his amazement that after one hour we had walked out with more than R1 Billion for a new stadium.

It is going to be a landmark. It is going to be multi-purpose. It is going to be a 70 000 seater. It is going to be iconic. It will be completed by December 2008.

But what is a KwaZulu-Natal icon? What is a unifying and edifying symbol for KwaZulu-Natal? Before the end of February 2006 we will be calling for expressions of interests for the design of the stadium and for what constitutes an icon for KwaZulu-Natal. We have proposed the name King Sensangakhona for the new Stadium. His Majesty the King was consulted on the matter and agrees, but there may very well be other suggestions.

Time is not on our side. The early return from the Africa Cup Nations in Egypt has been a timely wake up call.

A decision has been taken to have an inter-provincial soccer tournament by July 2006. This will produce a national squad of 40 players drawn from all provinces. It is from this national

40 that the final national squad will be selected. Being in place by July 2006 will give the national squad enough time to jell together.

For KwaZulu-Natal this means that we begin Districts Tournaments immediately. The best in the District will then play in the Inter-District Games that will produce the provincial squad who will carry our Provincial colours to the Inter-Provincial Soccer Tournament. The District and Provincial Squad will of course not only exist for national tournaments. Districts will be playing against each other and provinces will be playing against each other as well as against neighbouring states.

Like France we now know that we can not be a winning nation by merely being a spectator nation.

It is not failure that is bad. Failure happens even to the best. The tragedy is the inability to learn from failure. Part of this revival of soccer in KwaZulu-Natal is going to be building on what already exists. We have no shortage of veteran soccer coaches. We will use them.

We have a very strong support base for soccer. African Wanderers is celebrating 100 years this year. It has very strong grass root support. We will build on it. Amazulu have strong grassroots support. We will build on it. Arrows has veritable grassroots support. We will consolidate it. Bush Bucks has strong grassroots support. We will build on it. Maritzburg United. We will consolidate and build it. There are many more.

King Senzangakhona Stadium will be a monument to a province reborn. A province turning it's scars into stars.

We want to improve soccer infrastructure in the Province. Part of improving this infrastructure will involve upgrading and developing soccer fields, making soccer administrations accountable, instituting schools and youth soccer leagues, establishing an academy for soccer coaches and a soccer academy, providing technical expertise, training to assist clubs in securing partnerships, creating a sponsorship base; and facilitating partnerships with big clubs and private business.

Cultural revival

We should build on our strengths. KwaZulu-Natal has strong cultural heritage. Legend has it that the period from 1828-1838, during the reign of King Dingane was a period of great cultural development. It is said that this period saw great creativity, particularly in dancing and singing. After all King Dingane had come into power because the nation was war-weary. He was hailed as "*Umalamulela owalamulela izintombi nezinsizwa*". That tradition is still preponderant today.

It was with this vision that the provincial government became involved in the Kora awards. This is essentially an African version of the Grammy Awards. It is continent wide and seeks to give recognition to musicians locally right across the continent. It is broadcast across the continent and across the world.

This is in keeping with the spirit of the African Renaissance Festival, celebrated every May, where the people of the African Diaspora pay homage to what it means to be an African and salute this wonderfully vibrant, creative and growing continent of ours.

The staging of the Kora Awards was a private-public partnership. The expectations of the Government in staging the Kora Awards was not met by the private party. This led to the

government to intervene at the last moments to ensure that the Kora Awards of last December were successfully rendered.

Although the local concert was not well attended on 1 December 2005, the Awards Ceremony was a resounding success with artists from all over Africa and the diaspora present to receive their awards. The event was broadcast live in at least 40 countries all over the world.

In order to protect the investment of the Province and the artists, the Government has gone to court and obtained an order that has frozen the assets of the Kora Entertainment Company which includes the Kora Brand. This means that this Province can now go forward and run this project and re-position it.

Courageous Path Travelled

One hundred years ago there was no South Africa. After the battle of Isandlwana and the Anglo-Boer War the idea that resistance was hopeless was momentarily taking root.

It was Bhambatha kaMancinza Zondi who ignited the spirit of resistance amongst Africans, not only in KwaZulu-Natal, but across the continent.

Similarly when the white supremacists sought to confine the Indian people to Natal, it was MK Gandhi who led the forcible entry of the Indian people into the then Transvaal. This was the birth of a South Africa as a home for all.

While historians have written about the Bhambatha Rebellion and about the birth of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha, they have rarely reflected on how these two icons defined our struggle against colonialism and racism – not only in Africa but also in India. A Council's decision has been taken by Msunduzi to rename Duncan McKenzie Road, in Pietermaritzburg, Peter Brown Road and Greytown's R33 will become Inkosi Bhambatha Road. The significance of this is that Duncan McKenzie was the man who killed Bhambatha, while Peter Brown later played a role in opposing the apartheid regime.

As we commemorate the centenary of the Bhambatha Uprising in 1906, we look back upon a time when, during the reign of King Dinizulu kaCetshwayo, the colonialists introduced the Poll Tax (Head Tax) and other regulations designed to force Africans to work for wages on white farms. The Zulu people, led by Inkosi Bambatha, refused to bow their proud heads and a powerful spirit of resistance developed, which, like the battle of Isandlwana, inspired generations of South Africans.

But for a genuine commemoration of the Bhambatha uprising it is important to set the record straight. The Bhambatha uprising was a vortex that swallowed diverse people including Zondi, Maphumulo, Zulu, Shezi, Bhengu, Ngobese and many others.

The Bhambhatha Centenary Committee has been formed to commemorate the 100 years of the 1906 Bhambatha uprising. This is an inclusive Committee consisting of Amakhosi-akwaZondi, historians, SANDF Reserve Forces, and others. This Working Committee has identified what is considered as the pre-requisite for honouring Inkosi Bhambatha. Inkosi was deposed on the 4th of April 1906 by the Natal Colonial Government. We are legally the successor to that government. But we are different. How can we celebrate a centenary with Bhambatha remaining a commoner in our legal historical records. The posthumous restoration of Inkosi Bhambatha kaMancinza Zondi therefore constitutes the first step in giving him just recognition. My colleague, MEC Mabuyakhulu and the Department of

Traditional and Local Government Affairs is therefore requested to do the necessary legal work.

I fully support the posthumous restoration of the status of Inkosi Bhambatha. I know what Ubukhosi bakwa Zondi and all democratic people feel about this. I remember the indignity I was subjected to when I entered Australia and was held at the airport for almost two hours because the computer reflected that I had a prison record. Others like Mr Tokyo Sexwale were turned back in the United States for the same reason. We are no criminals and have submitted applications for that record to be expunged.

The Centenary Committee has also embarked on an ambitious restoration of a game lodge at Ngome, which will be renamed the Bhambatha Game Lodge. Once completed, it will be one of KZN's tourist destinations with a clear economic benefit to the people in the area.

As part of the centenary celebration, a Centenary Celebration Committee of Satyagraha is to be constituted without delay. It will have a provincial, national and international aspect to it. In September this year I will be hosting my counterpart and the Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs Sheila Dikshit, as part of the Centenary Celebration.

The Heritage Park, Library and Museum which will commemorate the memory of our heroes will be incorporated in the multipurpose King Senzangakhona Stadium for maximum accessibility.

I am sure that the vast majority of you will be aware of the eMakhosini Valley and its importance to the Zulu Nation. Many of you, however, may not be aware of the existing developments that are taking place there. The Provincial Heritage Body, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali, in partnership with the Provincial Nature Conservation Body and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife are in the process of acquiring the farms in the valley. These, together with the Ophathe Game Reserve comprise some 30 000 hectares. This land will be developed as one of the Province's premier tourist destinations. The consolidation of this Heritage Park will effectively restore the 19th century environment. The important cultural sites will therefore be viewed in their historical context.

The Multi-Media Interpretive Centre will be a world-class must see, must do facility which is unique to the Province. In the broader context the Centre needs to support economic sustainability by growing the tourism sector of the Province in terms of the numbers of visitors and rands spent. It should cement KwaZulu-Natal's dominance of the domestic tourism market and grow its share of the foreign market, and should build and support the branding of the province as the Zulu Kingdom.

We have been attracted to the artistic depiction of the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium. We intend to replicate a similar concept at Isandlwana. I have extended an invitation to the Honourable Dr M G Buthelezi to visit the Waterloo site in Belgium to observe first hand possibilities that exist.

Saluting our past

Solid progress has been made with the making of the statue of King Dinizulu. His Majesty, our King Goodwill Zwelithini had the opportunity to see the almost complete artwork which is being sculpted by Peter Hall, assisted by Mondli Mdanda. It will be erected at the lower end of Berea Road, in Durban, later this year.

The statue of King Cetshwayo, which will be cast in marble, is also nearing completion. Sculpted by a young African sculptor from KwaZulu-Natal based in Mpumalanga, the only

place where verdite marble is found, it will be erected outside the legislature in Langalibalale Street in Pietermaritzburg. Amafa, which is housed in the Premier's Office, is overseeing the statue's installation.

When we cast our eye over all sectors of our province, we see the birth of a new KwaZulu-Natal, a place which is proudly acknowledging its past while building a prosperous future. We have put the turbulent past behind us and replace it with a zeal for advancement.

Peace and normalisation of society

Mr Speaker, we are no strangers to violence in this Province. The high pitch of A1, our pristine beaches filled with laughter and appreciation for the festive spirit bears testimony that we have left violence behind.

In an open display of promoting governance and transparency, the government of KwaZulu-Natal established in March last year a Commission of Inquiry into policing. Whilst it is accepted that police are duty-bound to protect the public, they have an equal responsibility to act in a manner which supports democratic political life.

Later this year, the Commission of Inquiry will release its report on policing in KwaZulu-Natal. I look forward to the Department of Community Safety and Liaison concluding this process and submitting a report.

Forgotten injuries and pardoned pains

Mr Speaker, you would also recall that in February 2005, I pronounced that I would set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate and report on political violence and make recommendations towards reconciliation, amnesty and prosecution, which would bring closure towards KwaZulu-Natal's history of politically motivated violence.

But establishing such a Commission could very well itself revive forgotten injuries and pardoned sins.

After deep thought we decided that promoting the concept, "Communities-in-Dialogue", will achieve better results.

It will be local, participatory and healing. The Department of Community Safety and Liaison will be the lead department in this process. Meanwhile, the Department of Justice has announced that those people who did not appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, can come forward voluntarily with full disclosures so that their own personal circumstances might be settled once and for all.

Consolidating our provincial government

As of midnight the 1st of March, Umzimkhulu will be part of KZN. This will put an end to the uncertainty that has prevailed in this area for more than 100 years. Apart from immediate challenges of integration it presents the people of Umzimkhulu with a sense of stability and certainty. As for Matatiele the issues were two-fold. Firstly it was a consolidation of Matatiele into one municipality inclusive of urban and rural. Secondly, the question was to which province will a consolidated Matatiele belong.

Strong feelings have been expressed in this regard on the latter issue. The issue for us is to collectively ensure that no matter to what province they belong, South Africans simply because they are South Africans, should be entitled to development unreservedly.

We have consolidated our provincial government in Pietermaritzburg. The Executive and Legislature now exist and function within the same precinct, ending years of fragmentation and “separate development”.

The Office of the Premier is located at 300 Langalibalele Street, the Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism is at 171 Boshoff Street, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison is at 179 Loop Street and the Department of Sport and Recreation is at 135 Pietermaritz Street. Agriculture and Environmental Affairs is at 1 Cedara Road, Provincial Treasury is at 145 Commercial Road, the Department of Education is at 228 Pietermaritz Street, the Department of Health and Department of Traditional and Local Government Affairs are located at 330 Langalibalele Street, the Department of Housing is 199 Pietermaritz Street, the Department of Transport is at 172 Burger Street and the Department of Works is at 191 Prince Alfred Street. The rest are continuing to be housed at the capital city of KwaZulu-Natal.

The process of consolidating the administrative arm of provincial government has not been without its challenges, most of which arose from the different individual circumstances related to relocation, to which personnel are exposed. The Office of the Director-General is presently dealing with this issue.

Government’s commitment to come to Pietermaritzburg has been fulfilled. We believe and hope that this example will motivate the private sector to build and grow the city of Pietermaritzburg into a true and worthy Provincial Capital.

The Premier’s Coordinating Forum, established in terms of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, is fully functional. For the first time the leadership of the provincial and local government are utilising a statutory mechanism to drive co-ordination and alignment between spheres.

Crafting necessary Laws

During 2005, key legislation was passed by the Provincial Legislature. This includes the KwaZulu-Natal Public Transport Act, the Procurement Repeal Act that aligns provincial procurement with national legislation, the Cemeteries and Crematoria Amendment Act that, amongst others, allows for burial of farmer labourers on farms as well as the Traditional Leadership and Governance Act and the Youth Commission Act.

In 2006 it is anticipated that key legislation will be passed by the Legislature that will enhance and support the vision for social stability and economic growth. This includes the KZN Royal Household Trust Bill, the Gambling Amendment Bill, the Sports Council Bill, the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Bill and others.

Listening to the voice of the people

The cornerstone of a developmental state is constant dialogue and listening to the voice of the people. During the past year we made it our mission not just to wait for telephonic or even postal messages of complaints and concerns from our people – we conducted izimbizo in many areas in the province. We took government to the people. In 2005 we were able to hold izimbizo in Amajuba District, Ugu District and in the Ilembe District.

Citizens' Charter

The Citizens' Charter is now in place. This is a tool which, among other things professes our commitment to seamless service delivery. The Charter sets out mechanisms and recourse that the citizens have, should they feel that either the services promised have not been or the services provided have been exceeded!

NEPAD and International Relations

It is a known fact that KwaZulu-Natal has been leading in NEPAD initiatives in South Africa. This was demonstrated during last year in Durban when our communities held a conference called '*Taking NEPAD to the People*'. This conference showcased community organizations from around the SADC region including Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Angola as ready to take development into their own hands in partnership with government. The African Peer Review Mechanism which was launched on 17 November 2005 will recommence shortly when the Provincial Governing Council holds its first meeting. It will be completed in August 2006 in line with the rest of the country.

Mr Speaker, the past two years have also seen a very deliberate and focussed unfolding of an international relations strategy. This strategy aims to forge strategic partnerships, not only with the traditionally affluent western nations, but also with third world countries with which South Africa shares a common history for liberation and similar visions of development, for example:

- From China we have imported the Dryland Rice and Mushroom technology that addresses the very basic need of food security;
- From Indonesia we are importing the skills of furniture making and wood carving. Strong links have also been facilitated in the textile and garmenting industry;
- Belgium has committed a R60 million rand grant over five years at 12 million rand a year to our food security programme. Correspondence received from the Government of Flanders in December 2005 reads as follows (*letter*);
- From Germany the Province is gaining invaluable insight into the organising, programming and preparation for the 2010 World Cup; and
- Strong linkages have been established with India which has become a world leader in the field of science and technology. A Memorandum of Understanding was concluded on the evening of the 24th December 2005 with the Province of Punjab. This province, known as the "food basket of India", produces more grain and wheat than countries such as Canada and Australia, will be sharing their agricultural expertise with us.

Increased Tourism

KwaZulu-Natal is definitely becoming the major tourist destination of the country. According to statistics provided by the Tourism Authority of KwaZulu-Natal for the year 2004, the Province received a total of 13.9 million domestic visitors and 1.3 million international visitors. At a conservative increase of 2% that is projected for 2006, this translates to a value of R33 Billion to the provincial economy.

Health, HIV and AIDS

In addressing the HIV and AIDS epidemic, our target of 30,000 patients receiving ARV treatment by March 2006 will be met. Already by December 2005 a total of 28,163 patients were on ARV treatment. Also efforts towards constructing 10 new clinics, 2 new community health centres, 2 district hospitals and deploying 150 new ambulances are on target to be completed by the end of this financial year.

A strategic shift in combating HIV/AIDS was the creation of a Chief Directorate in the Office of the Premier, headed by Dr Ndlovu, to coordinate, at a provincial level, a fully integrated and comprehensive response.

The immediate priority set for this Chief Directorate is the compilation of a status report and the creation of an integrated, spatially-referenced database of all HIV and AIDS programmes, projects, service providers and infrastructure in the Province.

Furthermore, to conduct a preliminary survey of sector readiness to manage and mitigate HIV and AIDS impact and to develop a process that establishes agreement on implementation guidelines which will include verifiable indicators of achievement.

2. A VISION FOR SOCIAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The State of the Province Address of 2004 and that of 2005 embraced the fundamental principle of a developmental state, which translates into an urgency to meet the basic needs of the people, reduce poverty substantially, and provide work opportunities to all. Meeting these obligations lays the foundations for peace, prosperity and a better life for all.

The sentiment of these goals are well captured and echoed by the **Joyous Celebration Singers** led by Mthunzi Namba, Jabu Hlongwane and Lindelani Mkhize, who are all sons of this province, in singing:

Let the weak say:	“I am strong”
Let the poor say:	“I am rich”
Let the lost say:	“I am found”
Let the blind say:	“I can see”

In July 2005, the National Cabinet Lekgotla developed fundamental principles to direct the 6th Mid Term Strategic Framework for South Africa. These are accelerating growth in the economy and reducing the gap between the first and second economies, whilst ensuring that social security support reaches all who are eligible.

At the Provincial Cabinet Indaba held at Didima in August 2005, the KwaZulu-Natal Cabinet took the principles to the operational level, the emphasis being a marriage between growth and inclusion. The four key development projects adopted and announced in the End of the Year Report are:

- The Dube Trade Port project;
- Operation Mbo, that describes the “massification” of service delivery effort in prioritised areas, commencing with Nkandla and Msinga;
- The Agrarian revolution; and
- Corridor development.

Fighting poverty and creating wealth

At the outset one has to distinguish between poverty of communities and poverty of individuals. It is the role of Government to deal with communities that are poor. More and more communities are now finding access to potable water, roads and electricity and other means of communication.

That gives individuals an equal opportunity to be unequal. For example, once you have electricity it can be used for different purposes.

The developmental vision for this province is based on the twin goals of eradicating poverty and creating wealth.

I want to propose however that achieving the one goal does not automatically translate to achieving the other. What do I mean by this? I mean that in government since the dawn of the democratic dispensation twelve years ago we have been clear about the need to eradicate poverty. This has been the central theme of government's programme of action to date, and honourable members will recall that I devoted much of the State of the Province address a year ago to exactly this challenge. We have always been clear about the dimensions of poverty in the province, and in the last two years we have made progress in plotting the spatial dimensions of poverty.

Most of our government programmes are geared, quite appropriately, to eradicating the scourge of endemic and deep-rooted poverty in our province. In health we are focused on improving access to primary health care, alleviating the impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic, improving nutrition, and improving the quality and reach of our secondary and tertiary health care services; in education the challenge is similar – to improve the quality and accessibility of our education system and facilities; in social welfare we have made incredible strides in the last decade in broadening access to social security grants for the elderly, infirm and unemployed mothers. In other government departments the focus is equally on second economy interventions, providing employment opportunities, improving household food security, and providing better access to basic services such as housing, water, sanitation and electricity.

All in all, the provincial government spends approximately 90% of its budget on second economy interventions aimed at alleviating and ultimately eradicating poverty.

Let me be quite clear about this. This government's focus on poverty alleviation programmes is not going to change – the scale of the developmental challenge is such that for the next decade at least we will be directing most of our resources and programmes to combating poverty in all its dimensions, at all its addresses around the province!

What does this mean in practical terms for this government and its developmental vision and goals? It means that we should focus equally on the flip side of the poverty coin, namely the need to create wealth among a much broader cross-section of society. The absence of poverty itself does not imply or result in wealth.

We therefore as a developmental province need to take on the responsibility of empowering and creating wealth in numbers in our society.

Democracy has removed the racial obstacles that historically prevented black people from playing their chosen role in the economy. Broad based economic empowerment however implies a much more active role of the state. This is what is meant by broadening participation in the economy and by building an integrated and inclusive economy capable of achieving sustainably-higher growth rates – this in short is what is embodied in the concept of Accelerated and Shared Growth.

As a government we want to be in the leading edge of the crusade of creating wealthy black communities and wealthy individuals. To pursue the black economic strategies more vigorously we will be engaging with the sugar industry, paper and pulp industry and other manufacturing ventures.

Let me take this opportunity therefore to announce that in this year government will be rolling out a comprehensive set of programmes and interventions designed to accelerate growth and to create wealth in numbers that we have to date not dreamt possible. These programmes include:

- implementation of the Dube Trade Port;
- a comprehensive provincial strategy to build infrastructure, including appropriate infrastructure for the 2010 World Cup event;
- the roll-out of the multi-billion Provincial Growth Fund;
- the establishment of a SMME development fund with participation by leading financial institutions;
- Increased funding for the agrarian revolution in the province;
- the establishment of secondary and tertiary cooperatives in the province.

In all of these programmes, the overriding consideration in determining priorities, approving individual projects and allocating funds and resources will be the need to stimulate black economic empowerment – in other words, to create and to spread wealth among a much greater cross-section of society than before.

During the recent swine disease in the Eastern Cape, similar to the foot-and-mouth disease that struck this Province a few years ago, I was taken by the fact that more than a 100 000 pigs were culled, mostly belonging to the African communities. Of course due compensation were effected. But what stuck in my mind is that African communities in the Eastern Cape owned so many pigs. The estimate made by our Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs indicate that Africans in KwaZulu-Natal own less than 5000 pigs in the province collectively.

Where are Africans located in the economy in KwaZulu-Natal?

The Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative is going to be of most immediate relevance to KwaZulu-Natal. We are already seeing this in practice. KwaZulu-Natal consumes some 7000 goats per month. KwaZulu-Natal itself produces far less than 30% of this figure.

The entrepreneurial spirit of all the traditional leaders of eThekweni is extremely significant for KwaZulu-Natal. Amakhosi Community Support Services have just purchased KwaBotha-Ezimbuzini, a major supplier of the goat requirements of the Province. The express determination of Mr Botha that his business should pass to black hands is evidence of a new spirit and true patriotism that is emerging in KwaZulu-Natal, particularly when it is noted that Mr Botha has held this business for the past 38 years.

3. IMPLEMENTING ACCELERATED GROWTH IN KWAZULU-NATAL

Flagship Projects

Mr Speaker, in the End of the Year Report of November 2005 the flagship projects of KwaZulu-Natal that are set to drive economic growth to 6% and beyond were announced.

As these projects have really been conceptualised during the latter part of 2005, the aim for 2006 will be to finalise project development, continue with the consultation process with all stakeholders and, most importantly, to vigorously pursue the funding mechanisms and capacity issues so that all of these projects can be rolled out without delay. It is appropriate to briefly highlight each of these projects:

The Dube Trade-Port Project

The Dube Trade Port is an initiative set to provide a major economic stimulus to the province and country by developing a world class integrated logistics platform at La Mercy, north of Durban.

The Dube Trade Port is estimated to grow import/export cargo by more than 50% and to stimulate local economy and job creation. It is therefore a pleasure to announce that the Dube Trade Port Project has now been approved by the National Cabinet as one of the programmes of the Accelerating and Shared Growth Initiative (ASGI-SA).

At this stage the Feasibility Study has been completed and the land transaction with ACSA has been finalised. With the site preparation ready to be launched it is anticipated that KwaZulu-Natal will be ready to accommodate the logistical demands made to host major economic activity and international events like the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

The Agrarian Revolution

During the 2005 State of the Province Address and again in the End of the Year report it was emphasized that it will take an agrarian revolution to free KwaZulu-Natal from hunger and grinding poverty.

The revolution is based on the fundamental fact that people cannot grow and develop physically, mentally and economically on empty stomachs. According to Statistics South Africa, 35% of the total population is vulnerable to food insecurity with women, children and the elderly are the most at risk. Food insecurity and malnutrition are highest in Provinces with large rural populations such as KwaZulu-Natal where 3, 5 million of our people in KwaZulu-Natal do not have access to a square meal per day.

This is a situation which cannot be tolerated and our vision for growth and social stability therefore dictates that no one in the Province goes to bed on an empty stomach.

It is a well known scientific fact that our Province has the land and the climate to quadruple current agricultural production. Seen in the context that Agriculture has a comparative advantage in linking the first and second economies, this Government has already increased its investment into this sector.

Various lead projects have been launched across the province to lead the agrarian revolution, some of which will be briefly mentioned. The Mapophoma Maize Project, where production was essentially zero, production has now increased to between 6 and 7 tons per hectare. Production was tripled in the areas of Nongoma, Emahashini, Nkonjeni, Dabhase and now more than 3 700 hectares are under maize and beans.

Another such project is in the Empangisweni area under Inkosi Zondo. This area lost all production after the land transfer. Last year the community harvested 740 ton of maize and 360 ton of beans from this project, earning close to R 1.5 million for the two crops respectively. Similar projects are being rolled out in areas such Pongola, Makhathini (Cotton Outgrowers Scheme), KwaNxamalala. In Escourt R10 million has been invested to plant 700 hectares under maize and beans, to fence grazing land and assist in purchasing of Nguni cattle.

The Nguni Revitalisation Programme is well underway. This programme aims to bring back the lost dignity and pride of the Zulu people. However, we are not bringing these cattle to just beautify our countryside, but to brand and commercialise Nguni meat as a unique

product from KwaZulu-Natal. We are already engaging with German scientists in this regard and they will be coming to visit our Department of Agriculture towards the end of this month.

This partnership is a "first-of-its-kind" breeding programme to monitor the breeding lines of this herd and to establish a unique database of purebred Nguni. We will also be investigating various strategies of marketing the indigenous Nguni meat across Europe and Eastern Countries as our initial focus. I will be officially launching the Nguni Project on Friday the 10th of this month at Willowfontain.

Mr Speaker, the role of international relations in our growth and development can not be over emphasised. Careful selection of international partners is paying dividends to our province.

We have recently visited India and *inter alia* visited the Province of Punjab. The similarities between Punjab and KwaZulu-Natal are quite pronounced. As is the case with Punjab, KwaZulu-Natal has a mostly rural based population of whom the largest part is involved in the agricultural sector.

What makes Punjab unique is that this province produces sufficient food not only for its own population, but as much as 80% of the food for the rest of India. This is done because they utilize their land potential efficiently, using appropriate and relatively simple technology and equipment on an average of 1 hectare per farmer. People do not own large tracks of land but still manage to feed themselves and prosper economically. The results speak for themselves.

Farmers in our Province sometimes own up to 600 hectares but still are not as efficient as the Punjab people. We in KwaZulu-Natal are currently vastly under-utilizing our agricultural resources with large tracks of land lying fallow. This situation must change.

Mr Speaker, what we have learnt in Punjab around agriculture is refreshing. We have already placed an order of some small appropriate equipment to address the problems associated with emergent farming. Furthermore, a group of hand picked experts from Punjab will be arriving in KwaZulu-Natal to work with their counterparts around key challenges facing our emerging farmers particularly around water provision, low cost irrigation techniques suitable for massive production but using appropriate technologies.

Mr. Speaker, and Honourable members of the House, we have the agricultural potential, we have the scientific know-how and we have a Government vision of an agrarian revolution. What we need is increased investment in this sector and furthermore we need committed and efficient users of the land.

The Bi-national Co-operative Agreement between South Africa and Flanders that has now redirected all funding to food security is a huge injection into the agrarian revolution.

The commitment by the Flemish government for implementation over the next 5 years with a budget of 7.5 million Euros (approximately R536 million) will go to improved agricultural production, improved household income and improved food assimilation and health status. This exciting programme will be rolled out from the pilot areas to the rest of KwaZulu-Natal during the latter third of the five year period.

Also with Belgium, the co-operation project with Wallonia cattle and pigs is showing remarkable results. Experiments with the Belgian Blue cattle are indicating an increase of up to 80% more meat relative to the other components of the carcass such as bone skin and hide.

Aquaculture, which has a huge potential in the frost free areas of North-East KwaZulu-Natal and some of the river catchments areas such as the Tugela River basin are presently being investigated with Denmark and Sweden. Belarus, located in Eastern Europe, is yet another foreign country which has indicated a desire to engage our Province with regard to markets for agricultural products, as well as mechanization.

A major international project that is directly impacting on food security is the Mushroom and Rice Project which have been embarked upon with the Fujian Province of China. Since the start of the Mushroom Project in July 2005, no less than 30 mushroom sites in the Province have been established and already 70 000 sub-strates of mushrooms have been distributed from which no less 52.5 tons have been harvested. This has so far benefited over 2000 people. Up till now, a lot of research has also been done and with the knowledge gained, an estimated 1 million sub-strates will be distributed during the 06/07 financial year. It is estimated that around 750 tons of mushrooms will be harvested benefiting up to 30 000 people.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, I am passionate about the role that agriculture can play in our province. The Food Security initiative allows our people to cross the divide from hunger and disempowerment to being healthy and empowered.

Transport Corridor Development

As announced this Project focuses on continued support for the Lebombo Spatial Development Initiative that is linked to the construction of P700.

The revitalisation of the rail link in the area of P700 will lead to spin-offs similar to those seen on the M4 to Mpumalanga. Importantly, the corridor has the potential of linking Richards Bay and Vryheid.

Significant progress has been made in the construction of some of the roads and measures to affect the integrated aspect in the planning are in place.

Comprehensive Plan to provide Water, Sanitation and Energy to the Province

Initial indications are that the backlog for water, sanitation and electricity requires about R10.7 billion in order to meet service delivery targets. The magnitude of the problem becomes more apparent when this figure is compared with the Municipal Infrastructure Grant allocation of R4 billion for the period up to 2009. This poses an enormous challenge and is therefore a top priority for government in 2006.

Over the last financial year the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs facilitated more than 98% expenditure on Municipal Infrastructure Grant, a commendable achievement. Municipalities are also being assisted to have proper institutional arrangements to implement projects. Project Management Units have been established in all districts municipalities.

Operation Mbo - Massification projects in prioritised areas (commencing with Nkandla and Msinga)

“Operation Mbo”, is the provincial massification programme based on geographic integration and coordination, with joint planning and implementation of projects, that all contribute comprehensively towards poverty eradication, human development and improved quality of life.

The Cabinet Lekgotla at Didima resolved that the initial focus of Operation Mbo should be on the Nkandla and Msinga municipalities, both of which lie in the heart of the province and are characterised by high levels of poverty and service delivery backlogs. Project implementation will occur in the 2006/7 financial year.

The Process of Provincial Human Resource Development

In the State of the Province Address of last year I alluded to the fact that between 1.4 and 2.1 million people in KwaZulu-Natal are said to be illiterate – they cannot even read or write their own names. This *status quo* cannot be left unchallenged. To tackle this unacceptable situation, the Office of the Premier and the Department of Education has already worked on a massive scale programme of basic adult education including the Masifundisane Adult Literacy Campaign targeting the people. Plans to deliver this programme are at an advanced stage. The target is to eradicate illiteracy by 2008.

Language is part of the heritage that we should nurture. It is therefore a pleasure to announce that 469 schools (former model C) which were not offering Isizulu as a subject are offering it for the first time in 2006.

The expansion of the use of ICT in education in year 2006 will see 1320 schools that already have electricity receiving computers for administrative purposes, 100 schools will receive 5 computers each for teaching and learning purposes.

It is heartening to see the increasing involvement of the private sector in the education of our people. MTN pledged to set up 17 laboratories in KZN, with every district having a computer lab of 20 computers. An additional 5 schools without electricity will receive laboratories. Vodacom has also come on board by pledging hardware and a subsidy for connectivity of 100 schools.

At the level of the school, I am pleased to announce that the target we had set ourselves to build 1,500 classrooms by end of March 2006 has been exceeded by at least 150 classrooms, to a total of 1,650. Nine new libraries have been built.

Also, the Office of the Premier has, with the assistance from the Human Sciences Research Council, developed a working document, the Province-wide Human Resource Development Strategy. This strategy addresses mechanisms to ensure that KwaZulu-Natal citizens improve their skills through business, technical and vocational training.

4. ACHIEVING OUR VISION THROUGH OUR PEOPLE

Mr. Speaker, central to the vision I have articulated in my address and core to our underpinning strategies to realize our vision for growth is the people factor. It will take a specific type of a people to realize our vision for growth. George Elliot, the famous English novelist maintains: *“The strongest principle of growth lies in the human choice”*

The vision for social stability and economic growth cannot be chosen and achieved by government alone but with and by the people of KwaZulu-Natal. They too have to choose this path.

It is the identity of the people of KwaZulu-Natal that will determine whether as a province, we have the wherewithal to realize our vision of growth. Our heritage, amongst other indices, has many answers to the questions of our identity. We have, for instance, many heroes and heroines whose memory imbues us with a strong spirit of identity and oneness.

We find so much pride and energy in the praisewords of Bhambatha Zondi:

**Umfoka Mancinza kancinyane
Engancinza kakhulu kozwakala.
UBhambatha umuntu ngeqabanga
Abafokazana babhambatha ngemizaca.
Ukhamba olubushelelezi lokaMaPhakade
Abathe bephuza kulo
Abafo Iwashelelela!**

**Usobhixase inkomo
Ebhixe enye ngodaka emazinyweni.
Ngokubhixa uDlovunga
Kwabamhlope abelungu
Kwedlula akwaba ndaba zalutho**

We find vigour in past heroes like Sgananda Shezi, Mehlokazulu, Ghandi, J.L. Dube, Pixley Seme, Chief Luthuli, Bishop and Harriet Colenso and many others. These icons remind us of our rich heritage and connect us to a journey of our forbearers to

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion may I add that there is never any certainty about social transformation and to expect such certainty is to misunderstand the way social change occurs. From crises, chaos and muddle that emerge from processes of change, it is possible to discern new opportunities, social patterns and positive economic spin-offs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a vision of a prosperous, peaceful and palpably dynamic KwaZulu-Natal. Through industriousness, relentlessness, focus, cooperation and consultation we will achieve that vision.

I thank you.