

FRIDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2010

***PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE  
EASTERN CAPE***

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The House met at 11:00.

Mr Speaker took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Please be seated. This is a sitting of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature in terms of Rule 17 of its Standing Rules of Procedure, to allow the hon Premier to deliver her State of the Province Address.

Mr SPEAKER: I now call upon the hon Premier to address the House. [Applause.]

Praise Singer

**PREMIER'S STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS**

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, hon Members of this House, our delegates to the National Council of Provinces, our national Ministers and Deputy Ministers present.

Iinkokeli zethu zemveli; sinabo ookumkani bethu baphakathi kwethu namhlanje. Nangona ndingenalo ilungelo lokukhahlela kodwa ke mandazise ukuba sinaye phakathi kwethu uKumkani uZamisizwe kaSandile wamaRharhabe; sinaye uKumkani Zwelonke kaSigcawu wamaGcaleka aseNqadu; sinaye uKumkani uZweleenkosi kaMathanzima wabaThembu baseRhode; sinaye uKumkani uNdlovuyezwe kwaNdamase wamaMpondo aseNyandeni; sinaye uKumkani Zwelibanzi kaDalindyebo wabaThembu baseMpuma; sinaye uKumkani Thandizulu kaSigcawu wamaMpondo aseQawukeni; sinaye uSihlalo weNdlu yeeNkosi kweli Phondo, utata uNgangomhlaba Mathanzima ephalekwa lisekela lakhe inkosana uNcamashe. Mandibulise kuSomlomo weNdlu yoWiso-mthetho yaKwaZulu-Natal nowaseFree State. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[From our Traditional Leaders, we have among us, - please forgive me for occupying a position that does not allow me to salute – King Zamisizwe Sandile of amaRharhabe; King Zwelonke Sigcawu of amaGcaleka aseNqadu; King Zweleenkosi Mathanzima of Rhode Thembus; King Ndlovuyezwe Ndamase of Nyandeni Mpondos; King Zwelibanzi Dalindyebo of the Eastern Thembus; King Thandizulu Sigcawu of Qawukeni Mpondos; the Chairperson of the House of

Traditional Leaders, Nkosi Ngangomhlaba Mathanzima in the company of his deputy, Prince Ncamashe. Let me greet the Speakers of our sister legislatures, that is KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State].

Let me also acknowledge the chairperson of SALGA in the Province of the Eastern Cape, Rhadebe. Executive Mayors, Mayors and Councillors present.

Zikhona ke iinkokeli zethu. Sinaye uSihlalo weAfrican National Congress kweli Phondo okwalilungu lale Ndlu yoWiso-mthetho, utata Masuale ukhatshiwe ke nguNobhala wePhondo, unyana kaMabuyana uDiya. Bakhona noogxa bethu phaya phezulu - iinkokeli zabasebenzi zikhokelwa nguSihlalo, umntakaSaziwa noNobhala unyana kaRhayi. Akhona namaKomanisi emelwe nguNobhala wePhondo wawo - umntakaNqatha okwalilungu lale Ndlu yoWiso-mthetho. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[We have our leaders here. We have the Provincial Chairperson of the African National Congress who is also a Member of this House, hon. Masualle accompanied by the Provincial Secretary-General, Mr Mabuyana. We have our Alliance colleagues on the gallery – the leaders of the labour led by their Chairperson, Mr Saziwa and the Secretary, Mr Rhayi. We have the Communists led by their Provincial Secretary-General who is also a Member of this House, hon Nqatha].

Allow me to salute all the leaders of religious fraternity and the community-based organisations; our Judge President of the Eastern Cape, Judge Somyalo and the Judiciary and Heads of Security Services in the Province; our esteemed guests, the Excellencies, High Commissioners of Botswana, Mr Ratsitiwe; High Commissioner of Mozambique, Mr Pedro Epele accompanied by Mr Shigogogoro.

We have India High Commissioner, Mr Batiya. We have our guest from America, the US Consul-General and all members of the diplomatic corps. We have leaders of the Chapter 9 institutions resident in the province, as well as parastatals. We also have the DG of the Province, senior management services of the province administration. Let me also greet the members of the media, as well as our distinguished guests.

Ndivumele Somlomo, ndithathe eli thuba ndibulise kubantu abamamele kwiindawo ngeendawo zeli Phondo nakwabo babukeleyo ngokunjalo. Sinabo abantu abasibukele koomabonakude kwiHolo yoLuntu phaya eMandileni KwaBhaca kwisiThili saseAlfred Nzo; kwiHolo yoLuntu eMsobomvu eGcuwa kwisiThili saseAmathole; ePearston Town Hall eCacadu; eGqeberha High School eWalmer eNelson Mandela Bay; eMqanduli Municipal Hall kwisiThili saseOR Thambo; Masakhe Community Hall eLuthuthu kwisiThili saseChris Hani naseBhunga Hall eSterkspruit kwisiThili saseKhahlamba. Mandibulise kubahlali bonke kwiindawo abakuzo. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follow.*)

[Allow me hon Speaker, to take this opportunity and greet our people who are listening to us from different areas of this Province and to those who are watching us from public viewing areas. We have people who are watching us at the Community Hall at Mandileni in Mt Frere, in Alfred Nzo District; At Msobomvu Community Hall at Butterworth, Amathole District; at Pearson Town Hall, Cacadu District; Gqeberha High School at Walmer, Nelson Mandela Bay; Mqandulu Municipal Hall, OR Thambo District; Masakhe Community Hall at Sterkstroom, Chris Hani District and at Bhunga Hall at Sterkspruit, Ukhahlamba District. Let me greet all residents in their respective areas.]

Dit is vir my 'n eer om julle almal toe te spreek vandag. (*I feel honoured to be able to address you all today.*)

As we reflect on the state of our province, hon Speaker, let us take a moment to bow in honour of our fallen heroes, our fallen citizens and our fallen comrades. We also include our Inaugural First Lady of this Province, Mama Dideka MaDixie Mhlaba, as well as Nondumiso Reinett Mantanga, Constance Njongwe, Nopalamente Mvuzo Mathanzima, Yolisa Gasa, Luyanda Mabhayi, Sivuyile Jafta, Sebenzile Msenge Mdyogolo, Afrika Spirit Mahase, Nkosi Mvumeni Makhawula, Nkosi Gcinikhaya Gwadiso, Vuyisile Boswell Mphafa, and Nomtyetha Bhayiliyatsholoza Moni.

Hon Speaker, it is important to acknowledge that it is four months since we buried Siphiso Mthimkhulu, Topsy Madaka, Siphiso Hashe, Champion Galela and Qaqawuli Godolozzi, known as the COSAS 2 and PEBCO 3. These comrades were abducted by the apartheid security forces, tortured and brutally killed. Last year in October their families were afforded an opportunity to bury the remains of their loved ones with honour and dignity. These are but a few of the leaders that bear testimony to the role of the Eastern Cape in our struggle for liberation.

Hon Speaker, on this occasion we are proud to recognise some of the luminaries of our province in the world of sport. The Eastern Cape Province Women's XV and Sevens are the South African Champions in rugby. [Applause.] We congratulate Aretha Gatywa, Nosiphiso Njikweni, Siphokazi Hess and Dumisani Chauke from Nelson Mandela Bay for their selection to take part in the Commonwealth Games in India this year for basketball. [Applause.]

We take our hats off to Mona Pretorius for winning two gold medals in the SA Seniors weightlifting and three silver medals in the Commonwealth Games. [Applause.] Nkosinathi Festile who, after being selected for South Africa in basketball and having successfully participated in games in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, will be attending the Youth Olympics Games in Singapore later this year.

In pool-ball, Tarquin Windvogel and Nicola Rossouw both received Protea Colours in the team and singles events respectively, while Dion

Kopke also received Protea Colours as under 23 Manager. We also hail our physically disabled champions, Michael Louwrence, who received two gold medals for both discus and shot-put in Dubai; Kevin Paul who now holds the world Record in the 100 meter Breast Stroke; Banele Makonco who received two gold medals and a bronze; as well as Mncedi Kanti who won two gold medals and a silver in the Czech Republic for athletics. We also congratulate our achievers in softball, table tennis, dance, show jumping, surfing, boxing, cricket, football and netball.

As we formally start the first full year of the current term, we pause briefly to take stock of the ground we have covered. We rededicate ourselves to work together to speed up effective service delivery to our people!

This year marks 20 years since the heady days in early 1990 when political organisations were unbanned; when Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were released from prison; when exiles returned to the land of their birth; and when negotiations aimed at ushering in a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa became a new site of struggle.

No doubt historians will caution that it is still early days to fully comprehend the true meaning of all these events. Suffice to say, the Eastern Cape, born directly as a consequence of the historical events 20 years ago, is growing and maturing and its people are rising! Whereas we were destroyed by slavery, colonialism and apartheid oppression, today we proudly declare that each day and in each moment, through solidarity and unity of purpose, we are rising! Whereas we have had occasion to despair, the words of one born of slaves, the poet Maya Angelou, have rekindled the fire in us to soldier on, especially when she says:

Out of the huts of history's shame I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I hear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise

As we look back to those days when our national liberation was imminent, we know that the struggle did not end. We know that February 1990 only marked the beginning of a long transition between the protracted struggle for national liberation and the dream of a better life for all. As we therefore reflect on our difficult past, because that is

where our lessons for the future are stored, we know fully well that we have a responsibility, which affirms the confident assertion we made in 1992, that indeed we are “Ready to Govern!”

Therefore, working together, we must rise to ensure that the space created by the events of February 1990 continues to be used effectively to advance the goal of creating a people-centred society. Our principle task as this present generation is not only to inherit the past, but to shape the future for the benefit of the next generation.

Hon Speaker, informed by the overwhelming mandate we received on 22 April 2009, we announced to this House a Provincial Strategic Framework which outlined priorities for this term. This framework focused on addressing the core structural challenges we face, including the structural weaknesses in our provincial economy - characterised by a weak primary sector, spatial imbalances and continuing uneven development, poverty and unemployment; capacity constraint within key service delivery departments and municipalities -, and the growing demand for government intervention against the significant budget constraints that have arisen.

In addressing these challenges, the Eastern Cape remains firmly on course to achieve the goals set out in the Manifesto of the African National Congress.

Masikhumbule ukuba sithunywe ukuba siqinisekise ukuba silwa impathombi noburhalarhume obukhoyo phakathi kwethu. Sifuna abantu baphile ngoxolo. Masikhumbule ukuba imfundo sisiseko esingundoqo kwimpilo yoluntu. Ngoko ke ukuphuculwa kwemfundo ngumba obaluleke kakhulu. Masikhumbule ukuba sithunywe ukuba siqinisekise ukuba imisebenzi ephucukileyo iyadaleka kunye namathuba ayo ukuze uluntu lweli Phondo luphume kwingxubakaxaka yendlala nentlupheko.

Sithunywe ukuba siqinisekise ukuba impilo yesizwe sethu iyaphucuka ukuze ngomso sikwazi ukuphila ubomi obude nobuzele amathamsanqa. Masikhumbule ukuba sithunywe ukuba siphucule iindawo ekuhlala kuzo iimpula-zikalujaca – amaphandle, sitshintshe impilo yabo ukuze ngomso nabo bancume bathi bazivile iziqhamo zenkululeko. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follow.*)

[We should remember that we are mandated to ensure that we fight abuse and violence among ourselves. We want people to live in peace. We should remember that education is a cornerstone in people’s health. Therefore, the improvement of education is very important. We should remember that we are mandated to ensure to create decent job opportunities in order to take the people of this Province out of the poverty threshold.

We are mandated to ensure that the health of our people is improving so that they can live long lives full of blessings. We should remember that

we are mandated to ensure that we make a difference in areas where poor people live – the rural areas and change them to better areas so that the people who live in those areas could witness and benefit from the fruits of freedom.]

As we rise, poised for speedy service delivery, it has been 290 days, a mere nine months since we came into office for this term. During this period we have been concentrating, among other things, on processes relating to the phasing in of the electoral mandate, as well as concluding the tasks of the previous term. Already we are seeing encouraging signs that the province is on a growth and improvement trajectory.

Hon Speaker, as hon members will recall, we informed the people of the Eastern Cape that, in implementing the Provincial Strategic Framework, we will focus on the following areas:

1. Speeding up growth and transforming the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods;
2. Building social and economic infrastructure;
3. Rural development, agrarian reform and food security;
4. Strengthening education and building a skills and human resource base;
5. Improving the health profile of the province;
6. Intensifying the fight against crime and corruption;
7. Building a developmental state, improving the public services, and strengthening democratic institutions; as well as
8. Building cohesive, caring and sustainable communities.

Hon Speaker, we therefore wish to report that our march towards speeding up growth and transforming the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods is progressing well. Like the rest of the world, in the recent months the South African economy has been hit by a recession, characterised by massive job losses, a decline in economic activity across a range of economic sectors, and increasing levels of poverty. Needless to say, the Eastern Cape has not been spared, as we have also seen job losses in critical sectors such as automotive and manufacturing.

At this stage indications are that we are beginning to recover from this situation. However, we understand that this recovery will be a slow and painful one, thus potentially exacerbating the burdens of poverty and unemployment.

Yingxaki le esingayenzanga ngokwethu koko esizibone sesikuyo sisonke siluluntu lwehlabathi. Ukuhla koqoqosho yingxaki yomntu wonke, ayiyongxaki yomntu othile, kodwa okubalulekileyo kukuba yintoni esiyenzayo ke ngoko ukuze siqiniseke ukuba uluntu luyaphuma kuloo ngxaki. *[This is a problem that is not of our own making. It is a problem that we saw ourselves in as people of the world. The economic downfall is everybody's problem. It is not somebody's problem but the most important thing is what we do to ensure that we swim out of that situation.]*

We therefore need to marshal our resources to mitigate these burdens, while simultaneously charting a new course towards prosperity, dignity and environmental sustainability. This will require a fundamental realignment of economic focus and in particular we will have to prioritise growth of the primary sector. Government will need to lead, support and drive this shift through the provision of investment incentives, trade assistance, access to finance and state investment, particularly in socio-economic infrastructure.

We will continue with the work of the Rapid Response Coordinating Committee as a multi-stakeholder platform for a coordinated response to the effect of recession. Through this committee we have assisted various companies to access SETA funding for the up-skilling of employees to avoid retrenchments. More than 1,100 workers benefitted from this intervention.

Yiloo nto ndisithi kubalulekile ukuba sisoloko sibambene ngezandla, sisebenzisana. Ngenxa yokuba laa komiti inabantu ngabantu namacebo ngamacebo siyakwazi ukuphefumlelana nayo ukuze sikwazi ukusindisa abo sele besemisebenzini, bangabi saphuncukana nemisebenzi yabo. Bonele aba sebephulukene nemisebenzi. Asinqweneli ukuba kungabakho abanye abantu abaphinda baphuncukelwe yimisebenzi. Sinethemba ke ngoko ukuba xa kusithiwa siyaphuma kolu xinizelelo lokuwa koqoqosho, ithetha ukuthi ke loo nto asobe silahlekelwe kwakhona yimisebenzi. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[That is why I say it is important that we should come closer to one another and cooperate. Because that committee is constituted of different people and therefore different expertise, we sit down with them in an attempt to save the jobs of people, so that those who are already employed should not lose their employment. The number of people who have lost their jobs is enough. We do not wish that another job should be lost. We hope that since the economic pressure is giving way, we will not be threatened with job losses any more.]

Hon Speaker, through the Expanded Public Works Programme, the province has created more than 78,800 job opportunities. [Applause.] This is in excess of the provincial target of 60,000.

We have a target now for 2010/2011, which is this financial year oncoming – it is 64,593.

Accordingly, we will ensure that localisation within the auto sector is enhanced by developing second and third tier suppliers, and will work with Original Equipment Manufacturers to develop supply chains. Hon Speaker, as a measure to broaden economic participation and in our drive to promote an inclusive economy, the Department of Economic Development & Environmental Affairs is leading the implementation of the Provincial Co-operatives Strategy. This is aimed at diversifying the manufacturing sector, the promotion and development of programmes for designated groups, the establishment of a Co-operative Development Fund.

Amalungu eNdlu yoWiso-mthetho aya kukhumbula ukuba besesiqalile ukuthetha ngokuthi makubekho imali ebekelwa bucala yokuqinisekisa ukuba ookopolotyeni bayaphuhliswa kweli Phondo. Siyenza loo nto ngenjongo yokuncedisa abantu abavinjwa amathuba okuthatha inxaxheba kwezoqoqosho. Sigxile apha ke kubantu abatsha, oomama nabantu abakhubazekileyo ukuze babe nokwenza ookopolotyeni abaya kuthi bafumane uncedo kurhulumente. Loo nto iya kwenza ukuba kungaphili kuphela oosomashishini abazimeleyo koko kuphuhle nabo babambisene kookopolotyeni, ingakumbi oomama. *(Translation of isiXhosa parahrph follows.)*

[The members of the House will remember that we had already started talking about setting aside some allocation for the development of cooperatives in this Province. We did that with the purpose of assisting the communities who were previously denied opportunities to participate in economic activities. We focus on youth, women and people with disabilities so that they can form up cooperatives that would receive assistance from the government. That will mean that it is not only the already self-sufficient businesspeople who develop but also those who have formed up the cooperatives, especially the women.]

Hon Speaker, we will support supplier development as part of supply chain management and we will review procurement policies in order to promote co-operatives and SMMEs. This will include putting in place mechanisms to deal with corruption in procurement, particularly with respect to conflict of interest by officials.

Bakhona ke aba baphikisana nomthetho, uthi umthetho usithi umntu makazichaze elubala ukuba uyashishina, suka bona bakhethe ukuyifihla loo nto. Likhona ke iphulo lokubagqogqa. Siza kubagqogqa sibagxothe kuba abanandawo apha. *[There are those who act against the law - people who do not disclose their business interest although they are required by law to disclose. We have a plan in place to bring them to light. We will deal with them because they have no place here.]*

We have already started with that process in other departments such as the Department of Health and the Department of Education. The investigation that has been commenced in these Departments will enable us to deal with thieves and show them that their rightful place is not in the communities but behind bars.

Furthermore, we will also improve procurement processes to ensure timely payment of suppliers. Notwithstanding our current fiscal constraints, we will ensure that all departments pay service providers within the regulatory number of days.

Besesiphucukile ke apha ekuhambeni konyaka. Noko bezinciphile iileta ezikhalaza ngokungabhatalwa. Le meko yokungabi namali iyenzile ingxaki yokuba kubekho uxinizelelo. Kodwa la mashishini mancinci siza kusoloko siqinisekisa ukuba abhataleka ngexesha ukuze zingaphinde zande eza leta zikhalazela ukungabhatalwa. *[We were doing well in this regard during the course of the year. The number of letters complaining about non-payment had decreased. The current fiscal constraints had landed us in this situation. But, we will ensure that the small businesses are paid timeously so that the number of letters complaining about non-payment does not increase.]*

Furthermore, Local and Regional Economic Development initiatives will be aligned with government programmes for the implementation of and support to SMME development.

Hon Speaker, in line with the Provincial Industrial Development Strategy, we will package active measures to drive industrialisation and diversify the economy through new sectors such as capital goods, petrochemicals and renewable energy, fishing and mari-culture. We will also ensure that the Industrial Strategy is localised in LED plans of municipalities based on the spatial competitiveness of local economies, including the revitalisation of small rural towns.

Xa sithetha ngezi zinto, asithethi nje, sinemizekelo ephilayo. Siya kukhumbula ukuba uPetro SA uza kwakha apha eNgqurha. Amathuba emisebenzi aza kuvela phaya kangangoko. Njengokuba libheka phambili ela phulo, aza kuya enyuka amathuba okudalwa kwemisebenzi. Umzekelo ke, kulo mcimbi weedolophu zamaphandle abantu baya kungqina ukuba njengokuba bebesoloko bekhala ngokuhambeka kabuhlungu kweendlela eMthatha ngenxa yezigingqi ezindleleni, ngoku eyona nto yenza kube buhlungu ukuhamba eMthatha ayizozigingqi koko kukusetyenzwa kwazo. Kukuzimisela ke oko ekwenzeni, tatu Bici. *[Kuhwatywe.] (Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[When we talk about these things, we do not talk for the sake of talking, we have living examples. We will remember that Petro SA will build at Ngqurha. That will create as many job opportunities as possible. As the project progresses, the job opportunities will also increase. For example,

with regard to the issue of rural towns, people will agree that since it was difficult to drive in Mthatha because of potholes on the road, now the difficulty is not caused by the potholes but by the work done to remedy those potholes. That is commitment in action, hon Bici. (Applause.)

In keeping with our previous commitment to rationalise state-owned enterprises, we are pleased to report substantial progress in the restructuring of the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Boards, as well as the establishment of the Rural Development Agency.

Hon Speaker, the task of building social and economic infrastructure requires that we pay particular attention to the infrastructure challenges and backlogs that characterise our province. In the coming year we will firmly position the Department of Roads and Public Works as a coordinating centre to oversee the planning and delivery of infrastructure in the province. Central to this task is a programme to eradicate provincial infrastructure backlogs, an initiative which we will pursue in partnership with national departments and National Development Finance institutions.

Sithi ngamafuphi, le mali sinayo apha ePhondweni ingathatha iqela leminyaka ukuze iPhondo eli lethu libe kumgangatho olingana namanye okanye ongaphezulu kwamanye ngophuhliseko. Nangona kunjalo, asuzukumyeka urhulumente kazwelonke, ingakumbi la masebe anoxanduva lokuqinisekisa ngeenkonzo ezingundoqo. Nala mali inkulu ibikhwazwa ngolwabiwo-mali siza kuyitsalela apha kweli Phondo lethu. Sinenkolo ethi ngokuzama ukujongana ngqo neenkonzo ezingundoqo kweli Phondo yiyona nto ingasisa phambili kakhulu leyo kwaye ingasancedisa nakulwakhiwo lwemisebenzi yophuhliso. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[In short we are saying, the money that we have in the Province could last for some time so that our Province could be equal to others in development, if not more. Despite that, we will still appeal to the national government, especially the national departments that have a responsibility of ensuring the existence of infrastructure. Even the large amount that was announced during the budget speech will be drawn to our Province. We have a belief that by focusing on the infrastructure in this Province, we would be engaging in a project that would assist in creating job opportunities.]

Hon Speaker, we believe that public transport plays a critical role in facilitating the movement of people around the province. In this regard, we will expand the current number of buses in the former Transkei area, Buffalo City and the Metro. We will do this in line with our Integrated Public Transport Network programme.

The rural gravel road upgrading programme is continuing and we will upgrade 182km of unsurfaced roads to surfaced roads. The total length

of provincial roads is 47,816km, consisting of 5,393km of surfaced roads and 42,323km of gravel roads.

Ndithe masiwafake la amanani ukwenzela ukuba umntu nomntu ayiqonde into yokuba ungakanani umgama ekufuneka siwuhambile, ungakanani umgama ekufuneka siwutshintshile. Uninzi lwezi khilomitha lukweli cala linabantu abahlupheke kakhulu. Yiyo le nto sithi siza kuzijul'ijacu kurhulumente ongentla ukuze noko sithi kwiminyaka elishumi ezayo sibe singasathethi ngokwenziwa kweendlela. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[I decided to mention these numbers so that people could have a clear picture of how much work ahead of us and the distances that we have to upgrade. The greater number of these kilometer will cover roads in rural areas. That is why I mentioned that we have to appeal to the national government so that in ten years to come we do not speak about construction of roads.]

To this end, the department is using low-cost alternative surfacing methods on low-volume roads, in addition to conventional construction methods for higher traffic volume roads. Un-surfaced roads to provincial hospitals and tourist attractions are currently being prioritised for surfacing.

Ngoko ke kweza khilomitha zili-182 ezinye zazo ziindlela eziya ngqo kwizibhedlele neziya kwezi ndawo zabatyeleli. Sinenkolo yokuba xa sitha senza loo nto siza kuba nakho ukutsala abakhenkethi abaninzi abakwaziyo ukufikelela kwiindawo ezininzi ezintle zeli Phondo lethu. *[Therefore, some of those 182 kilometres are roads that go straight to hospitals and the tourism sites. We believe that if we could do that, we will attract many tourists who would access places of attraction in our Province.]*

We remain committed to the creation of integrated sustainable human settlements. In pursuit of this ideal we have identified and commenced with the implementation of multiyear projects for inclusive mixed mode housing development. This will encourage private sector investment in lower income housing and the struggling gap market segments. The mixed mode development projects identified are in Thornhill in Port Alfred, eNgangelizwe eMthatha, Duncan Village Emonti, Hunters Retreat and South End in Port Elizabeth. These will provide households access to decent and adequate shelter. Through the implementation of the Rural Housing Policy, 29 new multiyear rural human settlement projects - yielding more than 10,000 houses - will commence in the 2010/11 financial year.

Sithi ke urhulumente akazi kuncedisa kuphela abantu abasezidolophini ngezindlu. Nabantu abahlala kwimimandla esemaphandleni baza kuncediswa nabo. *[The government will not assist only urban dwellers with houses. The people who live in rural areas will also be assisted.]*

In the quest to provide different housing opportunities, we will develop four new social housing projects, namely Emerald Sky Phase 5, Reservoir Mews, Southernwood in East London, and Park Towers in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

Furthermore, in consultation with local municipalities, land parcels for the development of community residential units have been identified in Camdeboo, King Sabata Dalindyebo, Kouga, Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, Lukhanji and Instika Yethu municipalities. [Applause.]

As at the end of December 2009, the Department of Housing has completed 10,455 units against the 19,000 units originally planned. An additional 11,721 units are anticipated to be completed by the end of this financial year. In proactively preparing for delivery of houses, the department has completed the servicing of 6,914 sites as at the end of December.

Xa sithetha ngeenkonzonke ezingundoqo ke siquka nezindlu kuba apho wakha khona izindlu kufuneka kubekho amanzi, kubekho indlela, kubekho izikolo. Kufuneka siqiniseke ukuba ikho iklinikhi. Ngoko ke imisebenzi yoluntu iza kuye isanda ngokwanda. *[When we talk about infrastructure we include houses because where you build houses, there must also be water, roads and schools. We must make sure that there is a clinic. In that way jobs for people will gradually increase.]*

The programme aimed at eliminating mud structures in the province is also progressing well. In the current financial year we have replaced 62 mud schools and 40 more will currently be finished by the end of March 2010. [Applause.] We are revising our approach to the programme of mud schools eradication. The focus of the new approach is on broadening the scope and standardising the quality of delivery systems.

Ndiyafuna ke ukuyicacisa into ethi lo mcimbi weenkonzonke ezingundoqo nguwona usiphatha kakubi kakhulu njengephondo kuba wonke umntu ofuna ukubonakalisa ukuba zingakanani na ezi nkonzo zingundoqo uye abalekele ezikolweni ezingekhoyo.

Sonke ke xa isenzeka le nto siyayilibala laa nto bendithethe ngayo ekuqaleni ethi sinendawo kweli Phondo ephetheke kakubi kakhulu kunazo zonke ezinye. Yiyo nangoku esebuxwayibeni kakhulu ngokwezikolo. Asiyonto imnandi kuthi sonke leyo. Akukho mzali uqiwayo ongathanda ukubona umntwana efunda ngaphandle naphantsi komthi. Yiloo nto sithi siyaxhwithana norhulumente ophezulu ukuze sifumane isisombululo esikhawulezileyo sokusombulula le micimbi.

Iingxoxo zethu ke norhulumente omkhulu seziza kuphumelela. Mhlawumbi uya kuthi ethatha eli qonga uMphathiswa enika ingxelo zibe ezo ngxoxo sezicala nye. Umnqweno wethu ngowokuba ithi iphela

le them sibe sizingca ngokuthi asinazo izikolo zodaka ezisihlalisayo.  
(*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follow.*)

[I would like to make it clear that the issue of infrastructure is the main challenge for us in the Province because everybody who would like to prove the lack of infrastructure would mention the absence of schools.

In doing so, we all forget what I mentioned earlier on that we have an area in this Province which is lagging behind all other areas in infrastructure. It is the only area in that state of affairs. That is not nice to us. There is no reasonable parent who would like to see their child being taught outside or under a tree. That is why we say we need to engage the national government in an attempt to get a speedy solution to this challenge.

Our discussions with the national government are about to be concluded. Maybe by the time the hon MEC tables his report the discussions would be concluded. Our wish is that at the end of this term we should pride ourselves by saying we have no longer mud schools that are embarrassing.]

Hon Speaker, through the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, disaster management infrastructure and services along provincial strategic routes will be established. This will enable a well coordinated and speedy response to disasters and related crises.

Njengokuba ndithetha apha nje, ndinomyalezo wefoni phaya kwifowuni yam osuka eNgqushwa, olilayo usithi imizi emininzi imnke nomoya. Kwiveki ephelileyo bezinjalo phaya kweli cala laPhesheya kweNciba. Kwiveki neveki sisoloko sifumana izikhalo ezinjalo.

Ezi zehlo ke zifika singemanga kakuhle nathi ukuba singakwazi ukukhawulezisa sinikezele ngoncedo. Nangona sisebenzisana kakuhle nezithili zethu ngokuthi xa kusenzeka oko zikhawuleze zifike kwezi ndawo zonakalelweyo kodwa amandla anazo akakho kangako. Yiyo ke le nto sithi ela Sebe looMasipala malisancedise ukuqinisekisa ukuba sinayo indlela esithi sikhawuleze sisabele ngayo xa kusenzeka ezi ngxaki. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[As I am speaking I have an sms on my cell phone from Peddie crying over many houses which have been destroyed by strong winds. Such incidents were experienced in the Transkei region last week. We receive such reports on weekly basis.

These incidents happen at a time when we, due to financial constraints, cannot offer assistance as a matter of urgency. Although we work very well with our districts in that in cases of this nature they normally provide some relief measures but they do not have enough funds. That is why we make a call to the Department of Local Government to assist us

by ensuring that that we have a way of responding to such incidents speedily.]

Hon Speaker, let me address myself to the issue of rural development, land, agrarian reform and food security. To this end we have adopted a Rural Development Strategy and an implementation framework which calls for the integrated development efforts by all departments, spheres of government and civil society. We believe that the successful implementation of the strategy will ultimately result in the transfer and redirection of resources by all sectors towards the rural poor in particular.

Robust interventions will include revitalising agriculture in rural areas through mass production for food security; commercialisation to boost primary production as well as agro-processing; paying attention to rural infrastructures which include roads, health facilities and eradicating mud schools; commercialisation of livestock farming; and developing skills to uplift the rural economy.

We will continue working together with the national Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to address outstanding land claims and betterment redress that negatively impact on development. We will conduct a comprehensive land audit to identify available land for agricultural production, as well as suitable land redistribution.

Hon members will recall that last year we celebrated the inaugural Mandela Day by launching the Provincial Rural Development Pilot Programme at Mhlontlo. This initiative is producing valuable lessons.

Phaya eMhlontlo ke siza kujolisa kwiiwadi ezimbini, sizenze ukuba zibe yile nto sicinga ukuba uphuhliso lwamaphandle lufanele ukuba yiyo. Bendiphaya ke namalungu ale Ndlu. Asifuni kuva ngondiva, sifuna ukuthetha esikwaziyo singqine esikubonileyo. Ngokwenene sibonile, sifundile futhi phaya. Uluntu beluchulumance ngolona hlobo luphezulu.

Siye eMhlontlo ngomhla we-18 kweyeKhala 2009. Namhlanje njengokuba sithetha nje sikwinyanga yesixhenxe emva kokuba besihambele phaya. Umsebenzi osele wenziwe ngalo mzuzu kulinywe iigadi ezilikhulu elinamashumi amane (140) kwaze kwalinywa iiakile ezingamakhulu amathandathu anamashumi asixhenxe (670) zamasimi. Kubiywe umgama ongama-36 km weegadi kwakunye nomgama ongange-12 km wamasimi. [Kuqhwyatywe.]

Akwanelanga nje apho ke Somlomo, nemisebenzi ivelile. Sithetha nje sekuveliswe imisebenzi elikhulu elinamashumi amathandathu anesithathu (163), kufuywe iibhokhwe ezingamakhulu amathathu anamashumi asixhenxe anesibhozo (378), iigusha ezingamakhulu amabini aneshumi (210), kwakunye neenkuku ezizala amaqanda angamawaka amane anamakhulu amahlanu 4 500. [Kuqhwyatywe.]

Ukuba ubumbonile umama obechulumancile ke phaya Mnumzana obekekileyo Bici esithi abantwana ngoku noko baya esikolweni bekwazi ukufumana iiproteyin, abantwana baya esikolweni bekwazi ukuba bafumane isonka nemifuno ephuma apha egadini, badlamkile ngoku abantwana. Andifuni ke ukuyithetha ke le nto ibithethwe ngulaa tata wokugqibela kuba ivele yandoyikisa laa nto ibithethwa ngulaa tata wokugqibela phaya kuTsolo. Hayi ke athi amalungu mandiyithethe. Uthi laa tata, ngoku ngangendlela amakhulu ngayo amazambane abawakhupha phaya egadini nangangendlela nabo abatsho bondleka ngayo, bayaquqa ukuwela iziko. [Kuhwatywe.]

Akutsho mna kutsho laa tata. Ebengatsho kum ndedwa, ebesitsho esidlangalaleni. Akuphelelanga apho ke Somlomo, kukho nophando olwenziweyo malunga neemeko zokuhlala oluncedisa ekuqulunqeni inkqubo eyiyo neyondeleleneyo yokuncedisana nokulwa intlupheko kwezi wadi. Lo ngumsebenzi wobambiswano kumasebe onke karhulumente kwakunye nezigaba zozithathu zikarhulumente. Kukho umama phaya esifumanise ukuba njengokuba abanye abantu behlala ezindlwini, yena uzihlalela egalini. Unayo incwadi yesazisi kwaye uyayifumana yona inkamnkam.

Unomntwana ongumzukulwana okhubazekileyo onabakhe abantwana ababini abancinci ahlala kunye nabo. Abantwana abakwazi ukufumana inkxaso karhulumente. Nalo ukhubazekile akakwazi ukufumana inkxaso karhulumente kuba umama ozala lo ukhubazekileyo akanayo yena kuqala incwadi yesazisi. Ngoku lo akakwazi ukwenzelwa incwadi yesazisi.

Ngokujikeleza ke singena umzi nomzi sijonga iimeko zokuhlala ezifana nezi. Yazivelela le nto satsho safumaneka isisombululo ngokunxulumanisa uncedo olukhawulezileyo kulo mama. Ndithetha nje ngale mini besipha unokontra oya kwakhela lo makhulu indlu ebesele ehambahamba phaya kwinxuwa aza kwakhelwa kulo loo makhulu [Kuhwatywe] Kwezi veki zintathu zizayo uya kube elala laa mama endlwini yesitena njengabanye abantu. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[At Mhlontlo we will focus on two wards and make them to be what we think development in rural areas should be. I was there with the members of the House. We did not want the hearsay, we wanted to speak and witness what we saw with our own eyes. We saw and we learnt by paying a visit to that municipality. The community of that area was very excited.

We visited Mhlonto on 18 July 2009. Today, it is seven months after we visited there. The work that has been done since our visit include the cultivation of one hundred and forty (140) gardens, the cultivation of six hundred and seventy (670) acres of arable fields, the fencing of 36 km of gardens and the fencing of 12 km of cultivated land. [Applause.]

These projects have also created jobs, hon Speaker. Up to now, one hundred and sixty three (163) jobs have been created; there are three hundred and seventy-eight goats; two hundred and ten sheep, as well as chickens that produce 4 500 eggs. [Applause.]

I hope you saw the lady that was so excited, hon Bici, who was stating that their children now go to school having had some proteins, bread and vegetables which they get from their gardens. Children are now active. I do not wish to say what was said by the last old man at Tsolo because it is frightening. Ok, the honourable members say I should say it. The old man said the potatoes from their gardens are so big that they are now physically strong and they frequently visit their partners. [Applause.] That is not from me. That is what the old man said. He said that in public.

That is not all, hon Speaker. There is also research that is undertaken on social conditions that will assist in developing strategies of curbing poverty in these wards. This is the type of work that needs cooperation with all the government departments and the three sphere of government. We also discovered that there is an old lady who is living in a shack house while other people live in the comfort of decent houses. She has identity document and receives old age social grant.

She has a disabled grandchild who has two small children and they are living together. The children could not access the government child support grant. Even the disabled grandchild could not benefit from the government support grant because her mother does not have an identity document. That also means the grandchild cannot apply for an identity document.

By these door-to-door visits we look at social circumstances like these. The plight of the old lady was brought to our attention and we devised means for a quick solution for the old lady. As I am speaking, a contractor who will build a house for the old woman is on the site. [Applause.] In three weeks' time, the old woman will be sleeping in a decent house like other people.]

In the coming financial year, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will lead a province-wide rollout of this integrated approach to rural communities.

Hon Speaker, with respect to strengthening education and building a skills and human resources base, remains one of our key focus areas in this term. Of critical importance is that society must take responsibility for the education of their children. [Applause.]

Xa sinokuthi singayenzi loo nto, isizwe singafadalala. Masiluthathe uxanduva sisonke ngokuqiniseka ukuba imeko yezemfundo ingakumbi kweli Phondo lethu iyaphucuka. Abantwana namhlanje ziinkokeli ngomso. Abantwana ngabo abaza kuthi baqinisekise kwilixa elizayo

ukuba asiphindi sibuyele kundalashé ngenxa yokuba siboniswa isipili. Asibuyeli kula ndalashé ngenxa yokuba siboniswe isacholo.

Ngoko luxanduva lomzali nomzali, luxanduva lomhlali nomhlali ukuba sisonke sibambisane. Isebe lezefundo lilodwa angekhe likwazi ukuwupasa lomqela kuba alizukwazi ukungena endlwini lizokurhola umntwana wakho mzali xa engayi esikolweni. Luxanduva lomzali ukukhupha umntwana aye esikolweni ngexesha lesikolo. Isebe lona kukuqiniseka ukuba phaya esikolweni utishala ugqiba eza yure zisixhenxe efundisa umntwana. Kufuneka liqinisekise ukuba phaya esikolweni iincwadi zokufunda zikhona. Kwakhona liqinisekise ukuba esikolweni kukho ucwangco nenzolo evumelana nokuba abantwana bakwazi ukufunda ngendlela eyiyo.

Namagosa ke ndicinga ukuba sekhe akungcamla. Niya kukhumbula ndibheke eMidushane. Amagosa ayayazi ngoku ukuba kufanele ukuba kwenziwa ntoni ligosa negosa. Sinenqununu entsha phaya eMidushane. Esa sikolo sibuyela kwimo yokuba sibe sisikolo. Zonke ke ezi sikolo zethu zingasebenziyo siza kuziguqula ngolwa hlobo sisebenza noluntu lwazo neSebe lezeMfundo. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[If we do not do that, the nation will be fruitless. Let us all be responsible in ensuring that the standard of education is, especially in this Province, improved. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. It is our children that will ensure that we do not go back to the past we shall have given them the necessary skills.

It is therefore a responsibility of each parent and each resident to form partnership with us. The Department of Education cannot fulfill our expectations alone because they cannot go door to door raiding children who stay away from school. It is the responsibility of parents to make sure that their children attend school. The Department of Education is responsible to make sure that teachers spend the required seven hours at schools, teaching. They are responsible to make sure that the study material is available at schools. They are responsible to make sure that there is order and discipline at schools – principles that are conducive to learning.

I think the officials have experience of what I am speaking about. You will remember that we visited Imidushane (High School). The officials are aware now what is expected from each official. We have now a new principal at Imidushane. The normality is returning back at that school. We will change all the underperforming schools in the manner we did at Imidushane and we will do that with the cooperation of the community and the Department of Education.]

As Government, we aim to ensure that children receive a solid foundation in preparation for subsequent schooling through the Early Childhood Development Programme.

We realise that the abject poverty faced by a significant portion of our learners often militates against effective learning. We are pleased that the School Nutrition Programme has built momentum and its overall management has improved. In 2009 the total number of beneficiaries increased by 140,000 to approximately one and a half million learners.

Ithi ke loo nto nje ngokuba iSebe lezoPhuhliso lwamaPhandle nezoLimo liza kube liqinisekisa okokuba amasimi ayalinywa, urhulumente kwelinye icala uza kuqinisekisa ukuba abantwana basesikolweni kwaye bayafunda. Lo mzuzu kungekavunwa, kungekabikho ukutya kokuba bemnke betyile ekhaya, phaya esikolweni kuza kube kukhona ukutya. Akakho umntwana onokufunda kakuhle elambile esiswini. Yiyo ke le nto sincedisanyo nela sebe ukuqiniseka ukuba esa sicwangciso sokutyisa ezikolweni siphathwa ngendlela. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[That simply means, while the Department of Rural Development and Agriculture makes sure that fields are cultivated, the government, on the other hand, will make sure that children are at school and are learning. While the harvest has not been collected from fields, while the children have nothing to eat before leaving for school, provision will be made for them at school to eat. No child can learn properly while the stomach is empty. That is why we assist the department in ensuring that the School Nutrition Programme is administered properly.]

Our determination to broaden access to education remains steadfast. We have made substantial progress in the implementation of the No-Fee Schools Policy, bringing the number of these schools to 5,134 and benefitting 1,686,573 learners. [Applause.]

Kukho ke ukuthi njengokuba urhulumente esenza le nto yokuncedisana nezikolo kwizikolo ezingahlawulisi mali, ufumanise ukuba ezinye zisahlawulisa bade babambe neengxelo zabafundi. Akakho umntu onelungelo lokwenza loo nto. Yiyo le nto ndithi masincedisane kulo mcimbi. Xa kukho isikolo esenza loo nto masichazwe sizokwazi ukudilishana naso thina. Kaloku akunathi kufakwe imali yokuncedisana nesik, nesikolo kube kukho abantu abaxhaphaza abantwana nabazali kuba kukuxhaphaza abantwana ukubamba ingxelo yomntwana efuna ukuzazi ukuba upasile okanye akapasanga kusini na. Kukuxhaphaza ilungelo lomntwana lowo oko ingakumbi xa isikolo sincediswe ngolo hlobo. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[There is a habit of demanding school fees from children while the government has assisted the school by declaring it as a no-fee school and you find out that children's reports are withheld if they did not pay the school fees. There is nobody who has a right to do that. That is why I am saying we should assist one another in this regard. If there is a school that does this, please report it so that we may deal with it. It is wrong for any school to continue exploiting children and parents while the government has financially assisted that school. It is a form of abuse to

withhold a child's report because a child wants to know whether or not they have passed. That is a violation of the child's right especially that the school has been financially assisted.]

Hon Speaker and hon members, the matric results for the province this year - while at 51%, far from what they should be - tell the story that the tide is turning; that we are rising!

Masikhumbule kaloku besisoloko thina singonamba mgqibeli, siphaya emsileni eluhlwini. Kodwa kule minyaka mibini ilandelelanayo noko ngoku siyakwazi ukuthi siyaqala ukuphinda siphakame. Simnikile umkhomba-ndlela ke uMphathiswa kwela Sebe lezeMfundo ukuba asisayi kuze siphinde ngoku sibuye umva sibheka phambili okokoko. Njengokuba sesiqabele ngaphaya kwesiqingatha ngoku asiphindi sibuye umva. Sifuna ukuba nathi sikwazi ukuzingca xa kuphela le them, sithi sikwazile ukuyitshintsha imeko yezemfundo yesizwe sethu. Umkhomba ndlela ucacile phaya kwela sebe. [Kuqhwyatywe.] (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[We should recall that we were always number last in the list. But for the past two consecutive years, we saw a little improvement. We have given the MEC for Education a wayforward to ensure that we are not going back but we are moving forward. As we have gone beyond the 50%, we should never move backwards again. We would like to have something to be proud of at the end of the term and we would have left a legacy if we could improve the standard of our education. Now the wayforward is clear in that department.]

Through the implementation of the Learner Attainment Improvement Strategy, we are strengthening the effectiveness of our schooling system. In this regard we reiterate the message coming from the State of the Nation Address that education and skills development are at the centre of our policies and that learners and educators must be in school, in class, on time; learning and teaching for seven hours a day. We will pay particular attention to supporting those schools that achieved a less than 50% matric pass rate. We will change that.

We will also establish a provincial Maths and Science Academy to spearhead teacher development and capacity-building. [Applause.] We also welcome the support for Maths and Science teaching in rural areas to be provided through the American Embassy. In this regard let me take the opportunity to acknowledge the presence of Her Excellency, US Consul-General, Dr A J Mayberry, accompanied by the Minister of Public Affairs in the Office of the US Consul-General, Mr Mark Canning. [Applause.]

Bhele njengokuba niza kuthi nina xa niphuma apha niyokuphumla emakhaya, mna noMphathiswa wezeMfundo sakube sihleli neli gqiza. Icebo lethu nalo lithi urhulumente waphaya eAmerika uza kusinika iqela lootishala beMaths nabezeNzululwazi. Iindawo abaza kusiwa kuzo

ziindawo zasemaphandleni kuphela. Akakho oya kuya edolophini.  
[Kuhwatywe.]

Xa befika phaya abazokufundisa bodwa baza kuncedisana naba tishala sinabo apho bakhoyo, babafundise ukuba iMaths le nezeNzululwazi zifundiswa njani. Apho angekhoyo utishala baza kuqinisekisa ukuba abantwana abaya bayayifumana bona imfundo yeMaths nezeNzululwazi lomzuzu le Academy sithetha ngayo sisayiqulunqayo ukwenzela ukuba ezi ziphumo sithetha ngazo zokuphela konyaka zibe yile nto sifuna zibe yiyo. Kaloku azizi kuhla mthini, ziza kwenziwa ziinzame zethu ukuba zibekho. Nazo ke ezinye zenzame esizenzayo. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[Hon Mhlathi, as you will go and rest at your homes after the adjournment of the House, the MEC for Education and I will be meeting the delegation. Our hope is that the American government will give us teachers for Maths and Science. They will be placed in rural areas. None of them will be deployed in urban areas. [Applause.]

When they arrive at their posts they will not be teaching alone, they will be assisted by the incumbents who will be learning from them the methods of teaching Maths and Science. Where there is no teacher for Maths and Science, they will ensure that the children get a quality Maths and Science education while we are waiting for the Academy that we are planning to establish. This will be done in an effort to improve the end of the year results so that they are what we want them to be. The improvement of results will not happen automatically, we have to put an effort together. Those are some of the efforts that we are making.]

Hon Speaker, we will continue with our skills initiatives, targeting the youth. The implementation of the Provincial Strategic Skills Programme, funded through the National Skills Fund, has gone very well. The programme is geared to assist the province to establish efficient training and education systems that will enable the youth in all areas of the province to access further education and employment opportunities.

The first phase of the programme, which is nearing completion, has seen 2,013 unemployed youth accessing learnership programmes across the province. Of this number, 1,693 learners have completed with an 88% competency rate. [Applause.] If ayo distinction leyo – tell me what it is. The programme focused on developing skills in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, tourism and business development. Our challenge is to make sure that these learners find employment and continue to access workplace training to ensure that they qualify as artisans. We commend the Department of Public Works for absorbing 158 of these learners as trainee artisans. [Applause.]

Hon Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the role played by our partners in skills development. These include Tertiary and FET

institutions, SETAs - in particular MERSETA, East London and Coega IDZs as our implementing agents, as well as community projects and local businesses for hosting learners. We would not have succeeded in this programme were it not for your contribution.

Furthermore, we have established a joint initiative between the Department of Education, MBSA/Daimler Chrysler, and MERSETA to enhance the employability of FET college graduates by exposing them to further training and workplace experience. I would also like, hon Speaker, to acknowledge the four-member German delegation amongst us today, led by Mr Hartmut Mattes who is the Head of International partnerships in vocational education and training in the Ministry of Education in Baden Vertenbach. [Applause.] He is accompanied by Mrs Mattes who is a principal of the FET College in Studguard. Also in the delegation is Mr Belgerman who heads the Landeskant Academy and Mr Viceshaw who heads the HRD Daimler AG in Germany. We appreciate the fact that our relationship with the Province of Lower Saxony in Germany is maturing.

In our endeavour to improve access to tertiary education, we have reviewed and are implementing our provincial bursary policy to ensure that it addresses the plight of the poor and the disabled. [Applause.]

Angangqina ke amalungu awenzayo umsebenzi wawo wokuqhagamshelana nabahlali njengelungu elibekekileyo uMnu. Qhoboshiyane kuba ndiyayazi ukuba baneleta eziliqela abasithumele zona. Ndiyawakhuthaza amalungu ukuba xa edibana nabantwana abahleli emakhaya, bengafundi babancede. Ngumsebenzi wamalungu ukuba asixelele ngeemeko zokuhleleka kwabantwana. Thina asifuni mntwana uhleli ekhaya ngenxa yentlupheko efanele ukuba usesikolweni. Maybe yenye into ingabi yintlupheko. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[The hon members who do their constituency work like hon Qoboshiyane will agree with me here. I mention the hon member's name here because I know that we have a number of letters which we received from them. I encourage each member to assist any child who stays at home and does not attend school. It is the duty of members of this House to tell us about cases of children who live under poverty. We do not want to see or hear about children who abandon school because of poverty. It should be for other reasons but not poverty.]

Mr Speaker, the policy, which is implemented through the National Students Financial Aid Scheme, caters for support to students studying in the fields of scarce and critical skills required for provincial growth and development.

Masiyithethe ke into yokokuba iManifesto yeAfrican National Congress nesiKhokelo sesiCwangciso sePhondo ziyasinyanzelisa ukuba sifumane iindlela zokuphucula impilo yoluntu ingakumbi kweli Phondo lethu.

Kufuneka sisebenzele ukuba impilo yoluntu lwethu ibe yimpilo esemgangathweni. Loo nto ke ixhomekeke ekubeni senza ntoni kwela Sebe lezeMpilo noluntu. Ndifuna ukubeka umnwe ke kule ndawo ithi noluntu.

Yintoni indima esiyidlalayo thina ekuphuculweni kwempilo yethu? Sakukhumbula ke ukuba uMongameli welilizwe ngomhla wokuqala kweyoMnga kulo nyaka uphelileyo we-2009 ngosuku lweHlabathi lukaGawulayo ume pha wasichazela ngokuthe gca inkqubo eya kuthi ilandelwe kurhulumente kulo mba wentsholongwane nogawulayo. Masiyithethe ke into yokuba nathi njengePhondo sifuna ukuqinisekisa ukuba siyayithatha inxaxheba eyiyo sincedisa isebe lethu ukuze likwazi ukumelana neemfuno zoluntu.

Abantu ke bayayilibala into yokuba iikliniki azilingani ngokwamandla nangokomsebenzi wazo, iyileyo inomyinge enokusebenza ime kuwo. Xa ingakwazi ukumelana nomthamo lowo wesigulo igqithisele kwinqanaba elingasentla. Kodwa ke sithi kuwo onke la manqanaba siza kuqinisekisa ukuba iikliniki nekliniki inawo amayeza afanele ukuba khona kuloo kliniki. Liphulo lethu kulo nyaka elo. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[Let us recall that the Manifesto of the National Congress and the Provincial Planning Framework compel us to find ways and means of improving the health of our people especially the people of this Province. We should work towards the improvement of our people's health. That will however depend on what we, all of us, do in the Department of Health.

What role do we play in the improvement of our health? We should remember that the President of the country on 1 December 2009 – the World Aids Day clearly explained to us the programme that will be followed by the government with regard to HIV/Aids. I must mention that our wish as this Province is to ensure that we take part and assist our department in satisfying the needs of the communities.

The people forget that clinics are not equal in terms of their capacity and responsibilities. Each clinic operates according to its measure. When a clinic cannot deal with a certain type of illness, they refer the patient to a higher health care level. What we want to do is to ensure that all clinics have the necessary medication. That is our target for this year.]

Hon Speaker, We want to ensure that the primary health care and the district health model improve their governance. We will do everything in our power to see that happening. As I have mentioned that the Eastern Cape Aids Council, the province has adopted the Provincial HIV and Aids Strategy in line with the National one. In this regard we will be launching our HIV and Aids Counselling and Testing Programme in OR Tambo District in April this year. This will include increasing

access to ARVs. Other communicable diseases like TB and measles have also been prioritised.

In line with our call to improve the health profile of our nation, we call on the community to act responsibly. We already face a huge burden of disease with HIV and Aids; TB; treating people incurred in road accidents; substance abuse especially alcohol; high circumcision mortality. Most of these diseases and deaths are preventable; most, if not all are preventable. All they need is for us to act responsibly.

Akasekho umntu ongaziyo ngoku ukuba umntu usuleleka njani na yintsholongwane kagawulayo. Yintoni ke ngoko eyenza into yokuba ungazikhuseli kuba ke akutshiwo ukuba sukwabelana ngesondo xa ke sele ugqibile ukuba akunakubuya ngamva. [Kuhlekwe.] Inye into esiyithethayo kukuthi zikhusele, ukhusele nalo mntu uthi uyamthanda. Xa uzikhusela awukhuseli wena kuphela, ukhusela nalo mntu uthi uyamthanda. *[There is nobody who, by now, does not know how a person gets infected with HIV. Why therefore do people not protect themselves because people are not restricted from having sex if they have reached a point of no return. [Laughter.] What we are saying is that you must protect yourself and your partner.]*

We will improve our public health infrastructure provision through the revitalisation programme, using public private partnerships and incremental increases to the infrastructure budget to improve the maintenance of the existing infrastructure. Also included in this year's plan is a pharmaceutical management improvement programme and a plan to address the Emergency Medical Services.

Hon Speaker, in the coming financial year we will also, under the guidance of the national Department of Health, prepare for the implementation of the National Health Insurance system. This system will, among other things, help to give everybody more equitable access to healthcare services.

Over the medium- to long-term, we will continue to address the attitude of staff; replace and maintain our health equipment; ensure sufficient levels and the on-time supply of essential materials and drugs; build strong management teams and ensure more delegation of authority to those who need to make quick decisions.

You have been complaining that there is no Head of Department in that department. Dr Pillay has been appointed as the Head of Department. [Applause.] There is a Head of Department now in that department. We expect, Dr Pillay, that you will work tirelessly, building a team of people who are prepared to be of service to the people of this province.

Hon Speaker, the fight against crime and corruption is being intensified on all fronts. We will continue with the vigorous oversight of the South Africa Police Service in order to monitor transformation and to ensure

greater accessibility. To this end, we will evaluate 85 police stations to measure effectiveness of service delivery.

It is critical for all of us to be patriotic South Africans in the fight against crime, as our success depends on partnerships with the community. Thus our Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy is centred on assisting municipalities to promote 25 Community Safety Forums; establishing and supporting village and street committees; and strengthening the 191 Community Policing Forums in the province. We congratulate the community members who were elected in November 2009 to serve on the Provincial Community Policing Board for the next five years, under the chairpersonship of Mr Ray Maqutyana. We commend their spirit of voluntarism and for responding when duty calls.

During 2010/11, we will mobilise communities to participate actively in 85 crime prevention campaigns and 45 safer schools projects to create an environment conducive for learning and teaching of our children by our educators, and to reduce crime against women and children.

Our province has in recent times experienced incidents of high road accident fatalities. We appeal to our people to heed the call of Arrive Alive. We will show zero tolerance to drinking and driving in order to promote road safety, using the 12-point driving licence demerit system as a key tool when this comes into effect on 1 April this year.

Uyabona ke, abagezela endleleni baza kuzibona kuba ngolwaphulo-mthetho ngalunye olwenzayo uncitshiselwa amanqaku njengokuba unikwa amanqaku ali-12 nje ngonyaka. Xa uthe wona phaya endleleni akuthatyathwa inqaku eli-1 kuphela. Ayathathwa amanqaku nokuba ma-5 ngexesha. Kuxhomekeka ukuba isono esi usenzileyo sikhulu kangakanani na.

Ukuphela kwamanqaku ali-12 kukuphelelwa kwakho liphepha-mvume lokuqhuba imoto. Ndinga ukuba le nto iya kusincedisa kakhulu apha ePhondweni kuba siye savama kakhulu ukuba neengozi ezimasikizi nezisuba imiphefumlo yabantu abaninzi ngenxa yendlela esithi siziphathe ngayo phaya ezindleleni. Umntu uthi eqhuba suka adlule enye imoto kwindawo angafanelanga kwenza oko kuyo.

Ndiyayazi ukuba abanye bathi neendlela zethu azikho kumgangatho onguwo kodwa loo nto ayithethi ukuthi thina masiziphathe ngendlela engeyiyo phaya ezindleleni. Abanye abantu bayahamba bagqithe kungakhange kubekho ngozi kuba bathobele umthetho wendlela. Xa indlela imbi kubakho uphawu olucacisayo ukuba le ndawo uza kuhamba kuyo imbi ngoko ke thoba isantya. Asiyenzi ke loo nto singabanye ngabanye. Iziphumo zoko ke iba zezi ngozi ndithetha ngazo. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.)*

[The motorists who drive negligently on our roads will learn a lesson because for each offence a motorist commits on the road they will have

their points reduced as they are given 12 points a year. When you have committed an offence on the road your points are not reduced by 1. They can be reduced by 5 at one go depending on the nature of the offence committed.

The expiry of your 12 points is the end of your driving licence. I think this system will assist us a lot in our Province because we experience serious and fatal road accidents very often because of bad behavior on the road. The drivers often overtake where overtaking is prohibited.

I am aware that some say but our roads are not in good condition. That does not give us a licence to misbehave on the road. Some people travel on the same roads and arrive alive at their destinations because they have obeyed the rules of the road. Where a road is dangerous, there is always a warning sign and you are also at the same time instructed to reduce speed. Some motorists do not obey these rules. The consequences of that are the serious and fatal accidents that I have mentioned.]

Rural safety is also critical and strong measures will be introduced to reduce cross-border crime, particularly stock theft. In areas such as Matatiele and Mount Fletcher, stock theft is a huge challenge. We need to put in place drastic measures in these areas.

Kuza kufuneka sibe qatha nathi ngasemapoliseni kuba nawo anemikhwana ayenzayo. Uthi umntu ebeze kuchaza ukuba ulahlekelwe yimfuyo yakhe kuthiwe kuye akafanelanga kuza kuchaza kuloo ndawo akuyo, makaye kwenye indawo. Asizi kuwunyamezela ke lo mkhwa kuba uMzantsi-Afrika lilizwe elinye. Akunamntu ke ngoko amakanganikwa inkonzo anelungelo kuyo ngenxa yokuba kusithiwa ngumntu welinye iPhondo. Iza kuphela loo nto njengokuba ivamile nje phaya emapoliseni. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[We need to be strict with the police because they are also guilty of some bad habits. When a person approaches a police station to report their lost livestock, the police tell them that they are not supposed to report the matter at that particular police station but at another police station. We will not tolerate this misbehavior because South Africa is one country. Everybody is supposed to be given the services that they are entitled to. We will put a stop to that habit among the police.]

The fight against corruption has gained momentum in the last financial year, particularly with the resuscitation of the Provincial Anti-Corruption Forum. In implementing the Anti-Corruption Learning Network resolutions, we will ensure that the financial disclosure framework is extended to all the categories of employees that are involved in the supply chain management processes. We will intensify our efforts to uproot this scourge through awareness programmes to inculcate a culture of intolerance towards corrupt activities. Active participation and commitment by politicians and senior officials in driving the fight against corruption is key to achieving this outcome.

Hon Speaker, building a developmental state, improving the public services and strengthening democratic institutions is also one of our priorities for this term.

Accordingly, we have developed a Public Service Transformation Strategy which aims at creating a developmental, caring, accountable and responsive Government. In this regard we are reviewing the orientation of our Human Resource Development Model so that it puts more emphasis on areas of training that are of relevance to the posture and tone that our Government is seeking to portray. Part of this endeavour will be to ensure that all positions of Heads of Departments are filled early in the new financial year.

In fact, I may clearly state that there is only one vacancy that has not yet been advertised. All other vacancies are in the process of being filled in. We do that so that when the new financial year starts, each department has a permanently appointed head of department.

As Provincial Government, we remain focused on realising our equity targets in relation to gender and disability in particular. We will continue to engage the disability formations and a broad coalition of women's organisations, as well as the national Ministry for Women, Children and People with Disabilities, in order to sharpen our mainstreaming efforts.

Hon Speaker, the House will recall that last year we announced that a Provincial Planning Commission would be established in the Office of the Premier in order to improve coherence in government planning and policy coordination in the province. A conceptual framework for the Provincial Planning Commission - outlining its vision, character, critical tasks and basic structure - has been developed. Following our stakeholder consultation process, our intention remains that this capacity will be in place in Government in the next financial year.

We are encouraged by the Outcomes and Outputs approach to service delivery introduced by our national Government and announced by the President in his State of the Nation Address last week. We are engaging with our spheres of Government and we have moved quickly to review our coordination arrangements to ensure that we are in line with the outcomes approach.

Our success as Government depends on the effectiveness of Local Government as the key site of service delivery. To this end, a diagnostic assessment was conducted and a Local Government Turnaround Strategy has been developed. The Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, supported by the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury, will lead the implementation of this strategy in the province.

The Provincial Government is also implementing a “Clean Audits by 2010” campaign, spearheaded by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. We are working closely with municipalities in making sure that we strengthen and instill good financial governance. This will go a long way in restoring people’s confidence in the sphere that matters most, Local Government.

Similarly, the audit outcomes of departments in the province have been highlighted as an area requiring attention, particularly in the Departments of Education and Health. While we have noted good progress made in this area in the last financial year, with the majority of provincial departments having achieved unqualified audits, we will not rest until all departments are able to fully account for all resources placed in our hands.

At the core of our programme for transforming the public sector, are our efforts to strengthen coordination and integration of all Government programmes. This includes strengthening coordination with Provincial Government and coordination among the spheres of Government. In that regard, at the end of last year we adopted a Provincial Intergovernmental Relations Strategy. The Premier’s Coordinating Forum will monitor that the protocols agreed to in the strategy, inform the nature of our engagements across Government spheres.

Sitshilo mosi phaya ukuba sidiniwe yile nto yokuba ezi ndidi zoorhulumente apha ephondweni zikhuphisana. Xa zikhuphisana azincedisani. Kanti ke ukuze sikwazi ukumelana nemingeni yeli Phondo kufuneka zincedisane zibambisane. Yiyo ke le nto sithe phaya kwiQonga eliHlanganisayo leNkulumbuso iza kubaluleka into yokuba onke amasebe ephondo namasebe kandlunkulu aneefisi ezilapha ephondweni makathathe inxaxheba phaya koomaspala xa besenza iNkqubo yoPhuhliso eHlangeneyo yabo. Kufuneka ke kungathunyelwa magosa akwizikhundla ezisezantsi angazi kukwazi ukuthatha izigqibo [Kuhwatywe.] Thumelani abantu abaza kukwazi ukuthatha izigqibo kuba ngumsebenzi wakhe lo aya kuthatha isigqibo ngawo. [Kuhwatywe]. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[We explained there that we are tired of seeing the spheres of government competing against one another in the province. When they compete they do not assist one another. For us to cope with the challenges of this Province the spheres of government must work together. That was why we said in the Premier’s Coordinating Forum that it would be important that all the provincial departments and the national departments that have provincial offices should participate in the local municipalities when they compile their IDP. They should not delegate junior officials who could not take decisions in such participation. [Applause.] They should delegate officials who take decisions because they are performing their duties by participating in the IDPs.]

Hon Speaker, last year, following the decisive renewal of our mandate to govern this province for a fourth term, we embarked on an Executive Council Outreach, where we listened to the concerns of our people. We will undertake a similar campaign during April this year.

Masiyithethe into yokuba lusincedile kakhulu ujikelezo lwabaphathiswa kweli Phondo kuba sikwazile ukwenza izinto ezininzi ezifana nokujongana ngqo nalo mngeni wamanzi. Iye yacaca xa besijikeleza apha into yokuba kwisithili nesithili isikhalo sinye ngamanzi. Ukuba besizihlelele apha eBhisho ngesingakhange siyazi le ngxaki ukuba kanti igqibe iPhondo lonke. Ngokujikeleza kwethu sitsho sabona ukuba asiyongxaki kamaspala omnye le, yingxaki yePhondo lonke. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[We must mention that the Exco Outreach was a fruitful exercise because we managed to do many things for example, dealing directly with the challenge of water. It became clear to us during the outreach that water was a challenge in all the districts. If we stayed in Bhisho and did not go out to the people, we would not have known that water is a challenge in all the districts of the Province. Through our outreach program we became aware that water is not a problem in only one municipality, but it is a problem in the whole Province.]

The House will recall that in December 2009 we passed a Bill repealing the Promotion of Youth Affairs Act, effectively dissolving the Eastern Cape Youth Commission. Following discussions between ourselves and the National Youth Development Agency, we are currently finalising the transfer of ECYC staff to the NYDA. The Provincial Government will, of course, ensure that youth development remains a key service delivery concern. To this end, a youth desk will be established within the Office of the Premier. I must take this opportunity to thank the Commissioners of the Eastern Cape Youth Commission for the sterling work they have done in leading youth development in the province. [Applause.]

Our commitment in the 2009/10 SOPA was that we would be enrolling 1,000 young people in the National Youth Service Programme. Today I am happy to announce that we have already recruited 500, with the remaining 500 to be recruited in the 2010/11 financial year.

Hon Speaker, part of the work we have done over the last 20 years includes the development of policy and legislation, aimed at ensuring that traditional leadership is given its proper place in our system of democracy. Today, I am pleased to announce that on 5 March 2010, we will be opening the new state-of-the-art premises of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, which is the first of its kind in the whole country. [Applause.]

Hon Speaker, the task of nation-building and national identity requires that we consistently build cohesive, caring and sustainable communities. Work in this priority includes a response to the challenge of social

fragmentation as manifested through high levels of poverty, domestic violence, criminality, teenage pregnancy, decline in social values and declining levels of social solidarity.

Part of social cohesion is the responsibility of each person to develop a common attachment to the country, the Constitution and national symbols. In advancing this message, the province has initiated a range of activities, which will contribute to the development of such a national identity.

Through the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture, we have facilitated the establishment of significant structures for the development of the provincial heritage, such as the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority and the Provincial Geographical Names Committee, with a view to fast-track the transformation of the province's cultural landscape in a manner that promotes nation-building whilst at the same time deepening and strengthening identity.

Uyabona ke ndithi xa ndithetha ngalo mcimb, Somlomo, ndikhumbule ukuba amaJamani phambi kokuba asindleke iNdebe yeHlabathi ngowe-2006 ayengabantu abanocalucalulo ngolona hlobo. Ndikhumbula ukuba ngowe-1995 xa ndandisiya phaya ndayalwa ukuba ndingakhe ndilinge ndithi xa ndiza kukhwela itreyini ndisondele apha kwipavumente. Kufuneka ndimele kude ndiyilinde itreyini ide ime ndiqiniseke ukuba imile ndiqale ndisuke ndiye etreyinini.

Xa ndandifuna isizathu soko kwathiwa kangangendlela abangamfuni ngayo umntu wolunye uhlanga bangandijula phambi kwetreyini ehambayo. Kwakungowe-1995 ngoko. Kwakunzima ngelo xesha nokufumana umntu lo wokuthetha sowungena evenkileni uphethe imali ufuna ukuthenga. Kuthethwa isiJamani ukuba awusazi, libala akunakuthenga.

Kodwa ngowe-2006 ngethuba leNdebe yeHlabathi, zange sibe nayo netoliki esihamba nayo. Xa sifika phaya umzi nomzi uxhomele phezulu iflegi yamaJamani ukubonakalisa ukuzingca kwabo ngobuzwe babo. Ukufudumala nobubele obabulapho xa bekubulisa kuba basebenzisa ela thuba lokuba besamnkela iindwendwe zamanye amazwe ukuze bakwazi nabo ukuba yinxalenye yoluntu lwehlabathi.

Siyafuna ke nathi ukuyenza loo nto. Kufuneka iphele into yokuba kuthi xa kuculwa umhobe wesizwe, umntu omnyama acule aphele apho siphela khona isintu, omhlophe ayokuqala ukucula apho kuqala khona ulwimi lwakubo ayokuphela ekugqibeleni. Loo nto ibonakalisa ukuba sisazivalele kubuhlanti bobuhlanga. Sithi ke kweli Phondo siza kuqinisekisa ukuba iyaphela loo nto. Sinenkolo ethi ukwaxhiwa kwesizwe kufuneka kubonakaliswe imbeko kwiimpawu eziphambili zesizwe.

Somlomo ohloniphekileyo, amalungu kunye noluntu lweMpuma-Koloni luphela, sinengxaki enkulu kwiingingqi ezithile apha ephondweni yokunyhashwa nokujongelwa phantsi kwesidima namalungelo oomama. Ukugetyengwa koomama betyholwa ngokuthakatha asinto esiza kuyinyamezela singuRhulumente, yaye asizukudinwa ukuthi gqolo sizilandela ngolwamvila olubuhlungu ezo zingwinta.

Le nto ke nqwa nale yokunyanzeliswa kwabantwana abancinane abangamantombazana ukuba batshate okanye bayokuhlala namadoda amadala amele ukuba ngootata nootat'omkhulu babo. Mawethu masibuyelwe ziintloni nababuntu, sikhusele abo bangenamandla okuzikhusela. Xa sibambisene singenza ngcono ekubuyiseleni isidima somama nokukhusela abantwana njengomgqeku oza kuthi ube lihlumelo lesizwe ngomso. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[Speaking about this issue brings back memories of Germany before they hosted the Soccer World Cup in 2006. Before that they were confirmed racists. I remember that in 1995 when I was visiting Germany, I was warned that I should never stand on the pavement when a train was approaching the station. I should wait clear of the pavement until the train stops.

When I wanted to know the reason for that I was told that the way they do not like people of other races, they could throw you in front of a moving train. That was in 1995 then. It was difficult at that time in Germany even if you wanted to buy in a shop. They spoke pure German and if you could not speak their language, you could not buy from a shop.

But in 2006, during the Soccer World Cup, we did not have even an interpreter with us. When we arrived in Germany, each house had a high flying German flag to display their pride about their country. The warmth and kindness when greeting was wonderful and that was how they used the opportunity of welcoming guests from other countries and to make themselves part of the world community. We also want to do the same in our country. The habit of singing only selected versions of the national anthem by different race group must come to an end because it demonstrates that we are still living as separate race groups.

We want that habit to come to an end in this Province. We have a stern belief that nation building goes hand in hand with respecting the national symbols.

Honourable Speaker, hon members and the community of the Eastern Cape as a whole, we have a huge problem in some areas of our Province – that of undermining the dignity and the rights of women. Murdering of women who are accused of witchcraft will not be tolerated by the government and we will not rest until the perpetrators of this notorious act are brought to book.

This habit is similar to the act of forcing young girls to marry with old men who are supposed to be their fathers or even grandfathers. Fellow South Africans, we must bring back our respect and the spirit of Ubuntu and protect those who cannot defend themselves. Together we can do better to protect the dignity of women and children who are tomorrow's leaders.]

It is of great concern to us that there are many orphans and vulnerable children in the province. Of these children, we have provided 3,271 with full school uniforms. We have placed 552 children in 83 community-based Cluster Foster Homes, and 173 children were reunited with their families through alternative care institutions. We will redouble our efforts in seeing to it that there are no destitute children; that the reasons for children being on the streets are progressively eliminated.

Hon Speaker, it is a fact that we are a mere 111 days away from hosting the biggest spectacle in the world. This confirms that we are rising! Whereas 20 years ago, we were seen as the "skunk of the world" according to Madiba, it is us today who are ready to embrace the multitudes of soccer fans to our shores.

As a province, we have done particularly well in preparing for a successful hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. Our stadium in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro was the first to be finished in the whole country [applause] and this was far ahead of the schedule. Work is also progressing well in other towns like East London and Mthatha for the practice pitches.

Our country and our province will not be the same again because we have done everything to ensure that in their wake, these games leave a legacy upon which even more advances to a better life can be built. Let us therefore rise in support of the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup. Let us all support the Football Friday initiative by wearing soccer jerseys on Fridays. Let us show the peoples of the world as they converge in our country the true spirit of Ubuntu. Let us support our national team Bafana-Bafana and pray that they overcome Mexico on 11 June 2010, that they prevail in Uruguay on 16 June 2010, and that they defeat France on 22 June 2010. [Applause.] Let us rise on these days and say "Makwedini! Niyabasaba na?" [*Boys, are you afraid of them?*]

Hon Speaker, before I retire, I would also like to say to the members of this House the pain of Heidi is the pain of us all. The national government is organizing a plan so that all the provinces could take part in assisting the people of Heidi.

Siyacela ke ngoko ukuba njengokuba siza kuchaza inkqubo kule veki izayo ezama ukuthi thina sileli Phondo siluxhasa njani uluntu lwaseHeidi, sicela ukuba abantu beli Phondo bazibonakalise ukuba obu buntu saziwa ngabo siyakwazi ukubenza nanini nangaliphi ixesha nokuba sekunjani. [*We request that, as we will detail next week the*

*program of how as this Province supports Heidi community, the people of this Province should demonstrate that the humanity for which we are known we show it to anybody, at any time and under any circumstances.]*

Hon Speaker, hon members and fellow citizens of the Eastern Cape, as with Maya Angelou, I ask you to rise and take charge of our own destiny.

Accordingly, the order of the day is that we should work in order to expediate the effective service delivery to the people!

I thank you. [Applause.]

#### Praise Singer

Mr SPEAKER: Order, hon members! In addition to the list that was acknowledged by the Premier, I would like to indicate that here in the House we also have one of the veterans of our struggle, one of the Rivonia trialists – tata Ahmed Kathrada. [Applause.] We also have the grandson of tata Mandela – Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela. [Applause.] We have the CEO of the National Youth Development Agency amongst us. [Applause.] Here today we have business representatives, heads of tertiary institutions and of the banking sector. We would also like to acknowledge the presence of our sponsor, First National Bank. [Applause.]

Can I now indicate that it is my privilege to invite you, all of you here, to lunch.

Thank you very much to you all for gracing our occasion.

That concludes the business of the day. The House will adjourn until quarter past two on Tuesday, 23 February 2010.

The House adjourned at 12:55.