



**ADDRESS BY KZN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MEC:  
HONORABLE PEGGY NKONYENI AT THE OPENING OF  
NSIMBINI PRIMARY SCHOOL:  
01 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Programme Director

Interfaith representatives

His Worship eThwekwini Mayor of: Cllr James Nxumalo

All Councillors present

Traditional Leadership

Izinduna Zonke

Senior Management of the Department of Education;

Senior Management of the Sector Departments;

Leaders and Representatives of Organized Labour;

Representatives of School Governing Bodies;

Our Social and Business Partners in Education;

Principal; Educators; Parents;

**Members of the Media Fraternity;**

Distinguished Guests; Ladies & Gentlemen

**Ngiyanibingelela nonke!!**

## INTRODUCTION

Program Director, Victor Hugo, a French poet and novelist once said ***“He who opens a school door, closes a prison.”*** This statement applies both to physical prison as well as mental prison. I stand here before you this morning with renewed hope for this community, our city, our Province, the country and the future of our children.

Chapter 9 of the **National Development Plan (NDP)** states that “Education is the single most important investment any country can make is in its people. Education has intrinsic and instrumental value in creating societies that are better able to respond to the challenges of the 21 century”. As we gather here this morning as leaders whether in politics, education, society or otherwise we should be encouraged and indeed hopeful, that the opening or handing over of a school to the community is an indication of our government’s resolve in eradicating poverty and a dawn of a brighter future for our country.

**John F Kennedy** former president of the USA once said ***“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation”*** I stand before you today both as a political principal and a citizen of the Province and this Country to say to all of you **THERE IS HOPE FOR A BETTER**

**AND BRIGHTER FUTURE.** This ANC led government is determined to do all it takes that the systemic imbalances of the past are redressed in entirety.

### **“ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION TO ALL”**

Program Director, **The Freedom Chatter** demands that the doors of culture and learning shall be opened. This demand is woven throughout strategic documents of both the ANC and government to ensure that this access to education and the quality becomes a reality. These strategic documents include among others the following:

- ☐ ANC manifestos
- ☐ Mangaung resolutions
- ☐ National Development Plan (NDP)
- ☐ Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP)

These documents identify specific priority areas of government geared at the transformation of our socio-economic conditions. **President Jacob Zuma has declared education as an apex of these priorities of government.** In demonstrating government seriousness and commitment to this declaration, this **Department has been allocated just over R42b for this financial year.** This is a significant amount considering where we come from. Together with the Department's officials and other role players we will deliver quality education to all in

an environment that holistically promotes and fosters a culture of learning and teaching.

We are ensuring that these resources are used responsibly and effectively to deliver on basic education fundamentals as reflected in our government's various strategic policy documents, **the Freedom Charter, the National Development Plan etc.** These fundamentals include among others, but not exclusively the following:

- ☐ Providing universal access to education opportunities to all learners
- ☐ Improving infrastructure
- ☐ Equalizing resource allocations to achieve parity
- ☐ Providing free education to learners from poor households through fee exemption and the no-fee policy
- ☐ Provide information and communication technology (ICT) facilities.
- ☐ Provide and expanding the nutrition program to all needy and indigent communities.
- ☐ Provide facilities for sports, school health, arts and culture.
- ☐ Provide facilities for teachers, principals, administrative staff etc.

As a government and through this KZN Department of Education we have already translated these fundamentals as enshrined in these documents into a reality. We are also conscious of the plight of our indigent communities that continues to pose as an impediment to the

attainment of these fundamental rights. The following are a few examples of government's delivery of these services:

### **Access to Free and Quality Education**

The government of the ANC became the only government in the history of this country and Province to provide education for free to all indigent communities. **No political party ever did that for you.**

### **Free Stationary**

All schools that are non-paying schools also receive stationery for free. This government understands that there are many in our societies that are less fortunate and cannot afford to buy food let alone stationery. This government now provides free stationery to all.

### **Quality School Nutrition Program**

There are many learners in our communities whose parents cannot afford to buy them food. There are also child headed households in our societies. The ANC led government now provides free SNP at our schools. The emphasis is now on the quality of food provided as this has a direct bearing on the cognitive development of our learners

### **Early childhood development**

Program Director, the KZN Department of Education has made considerable progress towards reaching universal coverage by **enrolling almost 98% of learners between the ages of 5 to 15**

**(compulsory school age) by 2014. The expansion of Grade R has reached universal access in the Province accessing nearly 240 000 learners. The focus in 2015/16 will be on the provision of quality education”.**

## **SCHOOLS PROCUMENT AND MAINTANCE**

Program Director, this Department takes the procument and maintenance of our schools very seriously. In the last five years we have built 88 brand new schools from scratch. We have thousands more that have either been:

- ☐ Refurbished
- ☐ Expanded
- ☐ Provided with Ablution blocks
- ☐ Provided with Laboratories
- ☐ Provided with Libraries
- ☐ etc

A big thank you goes to our social partners in the private sector, our sector departments and State Owned Enterprises to name a few whose contribution and partnership has enabled us to deliver on our promises. Without their participation these efforts would have had serious challenges.

This Department has initiated and implemented many infrastructure procurement and maintenance projects in the District. These include among others the following:



No	District Name	Project Name	Programme Name	Total Project Cost
1	Umlazi	Embokodweni P	New school	R 32 000 000,00
2	Umlazi	Masuku P	New school	R 50 029 176,50
3	Umlazi	Kingsburgh P	New school	R 31 602 798,00
4	Umlazi	Khiphulwazi	Storm Damage	R 10 703 000,00
5	Umlazi	Khalipha P	Upgrades and Additions	R 16 242 872,00
6	Umlazi	Masibambane S	Upgrades and Additions	
7	Umlazi	Isolemamba H/Sibongindlela	Upgrades and Additions	R 28 070 790,00
8	Umlazi	Qhosheyiphethe P	Upgrades and Additions	R 14 670 000,00
9	Umlazi	Quarry Heights P	New school	R 22 375 800,00
10	Umlazi	Gokul P	New school	R 9 465 660,00
11	Umlazi	Umgada P	Upgrades and Additions	
12	Umlazi	Catocrest P	Upgrades and Additions	R 24 829 200,00



13	Umlazi	Imbaliyethu p	Upgrades and Additions	R 33 550 939,29
14	Umlazi	Duffs Road p	Upgrades and Additions	R 11 048 377,00
15	Umlazi	Ulovu S	New school	R 39 402 702,00
16	Umlazi	Menzi H	Upgrades and Additions	R 18 880 000,00
17	Umlazi	Vukuzakhe	Upgrades and Additions	R 14 400 000,00

## UMLAZI DISTRICT PROJECTS TOTAL SUMMARY

PROJECT STATUS	NO. OF PROJECTS	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS
Completed	5	R 140 577 846,50
Under Construction	9	R 144 010 766,29
Planning	3	R 72 682 702,00
Total Number	17	<b>R 357 271 314,79</b>



## CONCLUSION

### Call To Community Structures

Program Director may I in conclusion make a special call to the community as a whole and especially parents of learners. Your active participation in the education of your children cannot be over emphasized. This includes:

- ☐ Developing and strengthening the parent, teacher and learner relationship
- ☐ Supporting you children in extra mural activity programs of the school
- ☐ Being the eyes and ears of the school for its safety and security
- ☐ Supporting the SGB in the governance of school affairs
- ☐ Etc

It will be folly of us to even suggest that government will be able to do this on its own. A Chinese proverb eloquently puts it this way: ***“Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand.”*** It is only through your active participation that you will get to understand what challenges both your children, our learners and teachers face. **“Together we can do more”**

**I Thank you!!**