

# KwaZulu-Natal

By Justice Mohale

In the past few years, the government of KwaZulu Natal has launched several projects to grow the economy and create jobs. They include Agriculture, improvement of airports, basic adult education and giving support to people starting new businesses.

## Overseas help

KwaZulu Natal Premier S'bu Ndebele said that many visitors used the province as a gateway to visit South Africa.

The province has also negotiated with countries such as Indonesia to have their clothing companies work closely with ones in KZN. Belgium has agreed to give KZN R60 million to improve agricultural projects and help produce food for local people.

## Faster growth

The eThekweni Metropolitan Council has also started projects to improve its economy.

The eThekweni's city manager Dr Mike Sutcliffe said the projects made it possible for its economy to grow faster.

The projects included the International Convention Centre, uSh-

## A number of projects are functioning to get those without jobs employed



aka, and regeneration of Central Business Districts.

## Progress

Sutcliffe said problems South Africans faced before 1994 like house shortages and basic services are being addressed.

He said progress had been made in improving lives of poor people.

The city put up 10 000 street lights, extended electricity in areas in need and poor families got free electricity.

"The city reduced the shortage of water from 137 795 households in 2001 to 55 432 households in 2005," he said.

The shortage of toilets in poor communities had been reduced from 232 192 households in 2001 to 140 193 households in 2005.

Sutcliffe said the city introduced the Zibambebe programme to empower unemployed, women-headed families.

"These women maintain over 1 000 kilometres of our municipal roads," he said.

## Some of the projects

- Dube Trade Port – which will have an international airport, trading zone and agriculture business zone;
- Operation Mbo – is aimed to reduce poverty and improve skills development;
- Agrarian Revolution – focus on using the land for agricultural projects to create jobs and produce food for local people.
- Transport Corridor Development Programme – focuses on renewing the railways that link Richards Bay and Vryheid.