

**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY MEC FOR COGTA, HON. R.M
MTSHWENI DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE NKANGALA BUSINESS
EXPO IN EMALAHLENI**

DATE: 20 OCTOBER 2014

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

**THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM, HON. SE. KHOLWANE**

**THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,
HONOURABLE CLLR T. NGWENYA**

**THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
HONOURABLE CLLR S. SITHOLE**

REPRESENTATIVES OF ESKOM KUSILE POWER STATION

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT HERE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1. Programme Director, it is an honour for me to be part of this history-making exercise in our district. Furthermore, it is my honour and privilege to present the certificates to the successful recipients. However, before I can do that, let me share with you my excitement about the launch of the Nkangala Business Expo.
2. The Nkangala District is endowed with coal minerals. The number of coal mines is testimony to this.
We take pride to the fact that this district contributes immensely into keeping the country's lights on.

- These mines have contributed so much into making eMalahleni and the surrounding towns, an economic hub of Mpumalanga. This translates into business opportunities for our local communities.
3. Job creation remains top on the agenda of the ANC-led government in an effort to reverse the effects of poverty. Yesterday, STATS SA released figures of the number of unemployment people in the country. At 36-point-1 percent, the youth is the most affected sector of our society by unemployment.
 4. These figures must be a constant reminder that we have a challenge to overcome in this country and that we must use all available opportunities and resources such as the mines as a solution.
 5. The launch of this expo, Programme Director, brings hope to our communities, especially those with business interest. I have confidence that their hopes are not misplaced, considering the objectives of the expo, which include, but not limited to:
 - ***Equipping and capacitating local small enterprizes with relevant information,***
 - ***Creating a platform for exchange of relevant and viable information between big busines and entrepreneurs.***
 - ***To raise awareness of what is available for local, small business to access and exploit within the industries based in the region.***
 6. Programme Director, I will be failing in my duties if do not appreciate the effort of the organizers of the expo. Putting together a function like this, is not a child's play. We commend them for a good work and for their display of professionalism. I am convinced that their effort will not be in vain.

7. In conclusion, I would like to congratulate in advance the recipients of the certificates. I hope they will serve as a motivation for them to do more in their business ventures for the benefit of our people.

I thank you.