

REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MR M.N MOKOENA, MPL, WHILE INTRODUCING GUESTS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE FIRST STATE MINING COMPANY AT VLAKFONTEIN, OGIES, EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Saturday, 26 February 2011

Programme Director, Councillor Lesley Nhlapho;

Your Excellency, President Jacob Zuma;

Honourable Minister of Mining Resources, *uMama* Susan Shabangu;

Honourable Minister of Energy, *Mme* Dipuo Peters;

The Executive Mayor of the hosting district municipality, Councillor Speedy Mashilo;

Distinguished guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good Morning!

On behalf of the Premier and the people of Mpumalanga, we are humbled and honoured to be part of history in the making – to witness the launch of the first ever State Mining Company. We are humbled because the launch we are about to witness, takes place in our Province, and is the first ever in the country.

Mr President, we are delighted because today is the beginning of a process to ensure, like we committed ourselves when adopting the *Freedom Charter*, that *“the mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and the monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole.”*

Given the challenge of unemployment, as the Provincial Government of Mpumalanga, we applaud this decision to ensure that *“the people shall share in the country’s wealth.”*

Programme Director, it is my pleasure and honour to introduce the guests in our midst:

- Honourable Susan Shabangu: Minister of Mineral Resources;
- Honourable Dipuo Peters: Minister of Energy;
- Councillor Speedy Mashilo: the Executive Mayor of the Nkangala District Municipality;
- Councillor Lesley Nhlapho - our Programme Director for today: Executive Mayor of Emalahleni Local Municipality;
- Mr Sizwe Madondo: CEO of the State-owned African Exploration Mining & Finance Corporation (AEMFC);
-