

INTRODUCTION OF THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MR DB MARTINS, MP BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MRS YN PHOSA, MPL, DURING THE SOD-TURNING CEREMONY OF THE MANGWENI INTEGRATED ENERGY CENTRE, NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Thursday, 10 April 2014

Programme Director;

Our Host, the Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Local Municipality;

Honourable Minister of Energy; Mr Ben Martins;

Honourable MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Andries Gamede;

Executive Mayor of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality;

Chairperson of Sasol, our sponsor;

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on energy;

Bokhosi – Bayete!

Councillors present;

Communities of Mangweni, Mzinti and the surrounding areas;

Distinguished guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Just less than a month before our 4th democratic elections, we have converged here in Nkomazi to witness yet another milestone emanating from the partnerships we continue to enter into with the private sector. It is a milestone because the capable ANC-led government has **a good story to tell**. This we celebrate under the visionary leadership of the Honourable Premier, Mr DD Mabuza, who continue to place the interest of our people at heart.

This project will create the much needed jobs in our Province and the municipality, thereby addressing the triple challenges of **Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality**.

Indeed we have a good story to tell, and I believe no one will disagree with that. It is only the ANC-led government which has such a positive story to tell. As we go to the polls on May 7, let us commit to renew this social contract in order to extend the mandate of our government to continue to better the lives of our people.

Together We Move South Africa Forward.

Ladies and gentlemen;

The person I am introducing, was born in Alexandra Township in Johannesburg and served eight (8) years as a political prisoner on Robben Island and in Johannesburg Prison (from 1983 to 1991).

He holds a Master of Law (LLM) degree in International law from the University of Cape Town; a Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree from the University of Natal (now the University of KwaZulu); Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Africa (UNISA). He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Management Practice from the University of Cape Town.

He has published poetry anthologies and his art work forms part of the permanent Art Collections of South African National galleries, as well as those of private collections nationally and internationally.

He is a loyal and dedicated member in Good standing of the African National Congress. He is also a member of the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the South African Communist Party.

He has served as a Member of Parliament since 1994.

He is currently the Co-ordinator and Chairperson of Strategic Integrated Project (SIP 6) which is known as Integrated Municipal infrastructure project.

He is also the co-chairperson of Strategic Integrated Project (SIP 8): Green Energy in support of the South African economy; and co-chairperson of Strategic Integrated Project (SIP 10): Electricity transmission and distribution for all.

Programme Director; Distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen; It gives me great pleasure to introduce and invite the Honourable Minister of Energy, Mr Dikobe Ben Martins to address us.

May we all rise as the Minister approaches the podium to address us.

Over to you Honourable Minister.