

# 18 Years of working together building unity and prosperity for all

THE people of KwaZulu-Natal join millions of South Africans today in celebrating 18 years of freedom.

The celebrations take place against the backdrop of major strides registered by the province in addressing the plight of the poor through a wide range of interventions.

The results of these interventions are well documented, particularly in areas of housing, water, sanitation, electricity and water infrastructure.

Among other successes, the province prides itself on reducing the water infrastructure backlog by 11.9 percent, which brings the number of households that now have access to water to 88 percent. This demonstrates that the government of KwaZulu-Natal is alive to the fact that access to water is a basic human right which is guaranteed in the constitution.

The province is also giving itself a huge pat on the back for recording tremendous progress in the provision of electricity. Since 1994, the province has seen the number of households with access to electricity increasing to 1 921 063, which represents a reduction of the backlog from 24.78% to 22.17%, resulting in 77.88 percent of KZN households being served. Similar progress has been made with regards to housing, sanitation and road infrastructure.



KZN Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize

With regards to education, the no-fee schools policy has made major strides in improving access to learning opportunities in poor communities.

Some 57 percent of all schools in the province have been declared "no-fee schools". This has benefitted over 47% learners in the province. To date, 4 719 schools are benefitted from this policy.

To stimulate economic growth, the province continues to invest in massive infrastructure projects.

Recently, the provincial government invested in the R7.2 billion Dube Trade Port, which incorporates The King Shaka International Airport. Such projects have created thousands of job opportunities for the people of KwaZulu-Natal.