

REMARKS BY HONOURABLE PREMIER SENZO MCHUNU ON THE INVESTOR SIGNING CEREMONY AT THE RICHARDS BAY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE ON 12 DECEMBER 2014

Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies

Honourable MEC of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mike Mabuyakhulu,

Mayor of Uthungu District Municipality, Cllr Mchunu,

Chairperson of the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone, Mrs Bongiwe Kunene and other Board member,

CEO of Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone,

Senior Government Officials,

Captains of Industry.

It is my pleasure to once again take part in another key milestone on investment in our Province of KwaZulu-Natal. It was not long ago that we had gathered in Durban for the handing over of the licence for the Dube Trade Port to operate as an Industrial Development Zone. Today we are meeting again here for another achievement for our country and our Province to have these two investment projects being launched.

The Dube Trade Port IDZ has already secured over R900 million in private sector investment. That portion of total investments, contributes in cementing KwaZulu-Natal as a critical base for manufacturing and global export.

We are encouraged to know that since the inception of the Richards Bay IDZ, an investment to the tune of R800 million has been secured and 1 882 direct and construction job opportunities have been created.

To now add these further three investors with a total estimated investment value of R4.56 billion and projected creation of 1280 jobs, affirms the correctness of the decision to establish these Industrial Development Zones. We thank you Minister Davies for your determination to push forward with the industrialisation programme of

our economy. We thank you for ensuring that the Special Economic Zones legislation is initiated and passed. It offers our country with a clear platform to accelerate economic development and job creation agenda.

Today's ceremony bolsters us as the Province of KwaZulu-Natal to work hard in terms of facilitating an enabling business climate, which should attract further investment thereby giving confidence to existing investors to expand on their old investments, whilst also attracting new ones to our region.

Today's development and others like this in the Dube Trade Port IDZ, suggest we can achieve more with better co-ordination, integration and alignment between various spheres of government.

By unveiling this investment commitment in our Province, KwaZulu-Natal, you are enhancing our manufacturing competitiveness and giving hope to fighting the scourge of unemployment in our country. This will contribute in advancing South Africa's trade expansion capabilities, thereby promoting economic development and enhancing economic diversification efforts.

This is indeed encouraging given the challenges of constrained economic growth, which has prompted our National Treasury to lower South Africa's economic growth forecast from 2, 7% to 1, 4% for this year.

On our part as the Provincial Government, we are tightening our financial controls against irregular expenditures, fruitless expenditures, wasteful expenditures and general controlled spending of departmental budgets so that the resources in our fiscus, can be effectively directed to key infrastructure development that will continue to enhance our prospects of attracting more investments.

It is in this regard that we have as part of localising the broad strategic thrust of the National Development Plan, have adopted the 2030 Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP). It is our belief that others will follow suit and gain necessary confidence that there is a government that understands what is required to run this modern economy.

Structuring closer relations between government and business on economic growth strategy is a common feature of dynamic economies in the 21st Century. We must thus forge ahead and attempt at all times to synergize and enhance South Africa's economic development prospects as partners. Business must join government in crafting a shared vision that will guide our efforts to realise our vision for a better and well developed South Africa in 2030.

We are also hopeful that the three investors, will through their investment, facilitate small and medium enterprise incubation through mentorship, capacity building programs and skills transfer in partnership with government to enable their access to trade opportunities.

As we continue our fight against triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, we commit ourselves as the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal to work closely with the Department of Trade and Industry and private sector to create necessary climate for further investment.

I thank you.