

R500m boost for sidelined Umsinga

Apartheid kept area backward – premier

NOKUTHULA NTULI

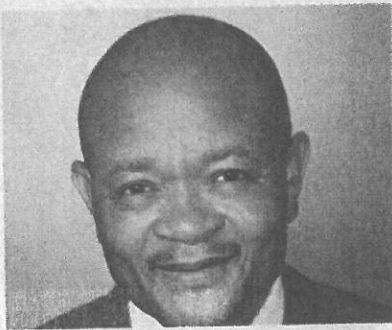
POVERTY, unemployment and inequality are challenges that prevent the people of Umsinga from fully enjoying freedom and democracy.

This is according to KwaZulu-Natal Premier Senzo Mchunu, who was speaking yesterday at the official launch of Inkululeko Development Projects II in Cwaka village in UMsinga.

“Today we are here to demonstrate that the people of Umsinga deserve to enjoy the fruits of freedom just like their fellow compatriots living in big cities. As a result of the apartheid policy of segregated development, areas such as Umsinga were severely neglected, with millions of people remaining isolated and on the margins of development,” Mchunu said.

Since 2009 the provincial government has invested more than R500m in Umsinga. With the addition of Inkululeko Development Projects, government infrastructure investments in Umsinga has increased to more than R1bn.

Mchunu said the provincial govern-



INVESTING: Senzo Mchunu says Umsinga was severely neglected.

ment had increased infrastructure spending from R9.7bn in 2008-09 to R10.9bn in 2009-10 and R12.7bn in 2011-12.

The largest portion of this expenditure was by the department of transport for road construction and maintenance as well as the department of human settlements for housing. The education and health departments had used the money for the building of schools, clinics and hospitals.

“We have identified Umsinga as the next municipality to benefit from Inkululeko Development Projects, having launched in Ndumo, in Jozini in 2013,” Mchunu said.

“Inkululeko involves the single investment in an area by all departments to address social infrastructure as well

enablers for economic activities.”

In the case of Umsinga, they will start with the renovation of schools, the construction of a school of excellence, provision of libraries, renovation of clinics, hospitals and rehabilitation and construction of road infrastructure.

“We are also providing decent houses and we have also set aside a budget for the construction of an abattoir as we want to encourage and link goat farming to the agribusiness value chain,” he said.

Accompanying Mchunu was rural development and agriculture MEC Cyril Xaba whose department, together with its entity, the Agribusiness Development Agency, is building a goat abattoir that will accommodate cattle and other livestock.

“These are some of the interventions the department is using to ensure food security, participation in the agricultural economy and the mitigation of the effects of drought in the province.

“Umsinga must be the hub of goat meat in the province and possibly the country, Chevron (goats meat) must be available in every butchery and store in the province and the country. This can only be done by you people of uMsinga. With our support you can move uMsinga forward” Xaba said.

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