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## HAND-OVER OF THE UMZINYATHI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY MAYORAL PROJECTS

Speech by

**The Hon. MB Gwala- MPP**  
Minister of Public Works: KwaZulu-Natal

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Dundee

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Programme Director, the Mayor of Umzinyathi District Municipality Councilor MS Yengwa, Mayors of Local Municipalities under the Umzinyathi District, all the Councillors present, Amakhosi present, spiritual leaders, government officials, ladies and gentlemen

I want to thank you for having decided, through your organizing team, to extend an invitation to me to be part of the proceedings on this very colourful and happy occasion. I have the experience of sitting at forums where various problems must be solved. That is why attending an event to celebrate achievement such as we are doing today, is to me like a breath of fresh air all of us would wish to be part of from time to time.

By their very nature, budgets of any organization are never designed to meet all the needs of the people in one financial year. I am pleased to note that under your present Council, a good trend is developing whereby each year the Council, through the Mayoral Projects, has had something to show to you for having entrusted them with public resources to deliver certain services that you require.

In 2003 the first occasion such as the one we are having today was held, on which projects to the value of **R 666 999.18** were handed over to the community of Umzinyathi District. It did not end there as your Mayor came back again to hand over to you other projects that amounted to **R1 million** and which targeted our youth and the disabled. Today we are witnesses to yet another ceremony to mark the handing over of projects that will be of help to you. This year the value of these projects amounts to **R 1.4million**.

At this point I wish to take my hat off to the Mayor and his councilors for a job well done. Please keep it up! I think your work so far is making things easier for the community of Umzinyathi to decide how to vote at the coming local government elections to be held in March 2006. You are proving year after year that even if your budget allocations are way below what you could wish for, you have nonetheless managed to bring a smile on the faces of the community that you serve. You have not made promises that you cannot keep.

We are gathered together this morning during the time when the whole world is witnessing a lot of things that are happening in a short space of time. Side by side with the phenomenal advances that human beings are making in the field of technology, we also read about disasters. Some are man-made while others are caused by the elements of nature. Only four years ago on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 we were witnesses of the bombing of the World Trade Centre twin-tower buildings in New York. Losses in terms of human life and property were of the magnitude unheard of before.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004 we also witnessed an unusual type of disaster whereby a tidal wave caused by an earthquake on the islands of Indonesia affected far away places such as Thailand and the east coast of Africa in Somali