

## TRADE PORT OPENING: ANC FOUNDER HONOURED



PHOTO: IAN CARBUTT

President Jacob Zuma and Premier Zweli Mkhize applaud as Lulu Dube, daughter of the first president of the ANC, John Langalibalele Dube, unveils a statue of her father at the opening of the Dube Trade Port in La Mercy yesterday.

# Zuma launches KZN's trade gateway to the world

**KAVITH HARRILALL**

IN 2010 the people of KwaZulu-Natal took to the skies from a new international airport. Two years later the fruits of their hard work will once again take to the skies, destined for foreign markets.

President Jacob Zuma yesterday officially launched the Dube Trade Port within the R8 billion King Shaka International Airport precinct at La Mercy, north of Durban.

The facility — which comprises an agrizone, cargo terminal, business and trade facility, telecommunications plat-

form and a trade zone — underscores the province's ambition to become Southern Africa's premier trade and logistics hub.

The trade port is located strategically between the mega ports of Durban and Richards Bay. It is also an ideal location from which to export KZN's rich array of produce.

The development of the country's infrastructure is firmly on the national agenda, and this has provided hope that infrastructure development will serve as a catalyst for sustainable and consistent economic growth.

Zuma drummed home the point, noting that rebuilding the country was one of his administration's major objectives.

"We have decided to invest in infrastructure in an unprecedented manner in this country.

"To be able to build dams, power stations, bridges, roads, viable ports and railway lines and even new cities and towns, we need a single-minded approach towards a seamless infrastructure development programme over at least 20 to 30 years.

"The global economic situation remains fragile. We have to create oppor-

tunities locally and regionally in the continent and investing in infrastructure is the way to go," Zuma said.

He added that the project had created 20 000 jobs during the construction phase. It is clear that more will follow once the facilities are completely up and running.

The agrizone facility has already created more than 120 jobs.

"Looking forward, this project has the potential to support much more employment as it links our producers to markets around the world," Zuma said.

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