

**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY KZN FINANCE MEC MS
NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LAUNCH AND VIEWING OF THE MAKHATHINI MEDICAL
WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY**

CATO RIDGE, DURBAN

17 MARCH 2022

Programme director; Mr Alex Mthiyane

*Managing director of Makhathini Medical Waste; Mr B
Makhathini*

Senior Management of the KZN Department of Health

*Regional Manager for National Health Laboratories Services, Mr
Bandile Bandezi*

*Senior Executives and Managers of all Hospital Groups present
here today*

Makhathini Medical Waste staff members

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good day,

I wish to start by expressing my gratitude and humility for being invited to be part of this special occasion to witness one of the best progression by a black business.

Companies like Makhathini Medical Waste proves to all and sundry that this government's decision to afford black entrepreneurs a chance to participate in the economy is a right one. Our belief in the ability and resilience of people is

unsurpassed and Mr Makhathini is a shining example of such. He is proof that you can start small, with one bakkie, one spade, one grass-cutter and from those meagre resources you can build a big business.

Mr Bandezi;

I am certain that as the National Health Laboratory Service, you are proud of the development of Mr Makhathini's business which started by processing 40 tons of waste, which itself is no small feat, to attaining these giant autoclaves that today process 800 tons of medical waste.

This is the reason we are here today, with some privilege, to witness the launch of the Makhathini Medical Waste Treatment Facility which, by all virtue, is a great milestone for a black business from humble beginnings.

But I believe it does not start there for Mr Makhathini and his is a story of filled with joy, disappointments, hurdles, red tape, litigation, monopoly, difficulty in accessing funding and financing, but his drive and vision has meant that we are here today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Entrepreneurs and black industrialists like Mr Makhathini are full proof that our Black Industrialist Programme is bearing fruits of success as an intended consequence. Our Black Economic Empowerment policies have not been in vain.

In November 2015, the Cabinet under former President Jacob Zuma approved the Black Industrialist Policy which aligns with the Industrial Policy Action Plan the National Development Plan and the Nine Point Plan.

The purpose of the Back Industrialist policy is to leverage the State's capacity to unlock the industrial potential that exists within black-owned and managed businesses. These ought to

be businesses that operate within the South African economy through deliberate, targeted and well-defined financial and non-financial interventions as described in the Industrial Policy Action Plan and other rafts of government policies.

Throughout the seven years we have accelerated the quantitative and qualitative increase and participation of Black Industrialists in the national economy, selected industrial sectors and value chains, as reflected by their contribution to growth, investment, exports and employment.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

By so doing, we have created multiple and diverse pathways and instruments for Black Industrialists to enter strategic and targeted industrial sectors and value chains. That is why the broader objective was for us, by and large, was to promote industrialisation, sustainable economic growth and transformation through the support of black-owned entities in the manufacturing sector.

However, we have always been aware that access to funding was a high hurdle to jump and as a province of KwaZulu-Natal we calibrated one of our entities, the KZN Growth Fund from its key strategic initiative to accelerate Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment to also driving our province's black industrial policy and programme. This was approved by the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

During my Budget Speech a week ago, I spoke at length about the role of KZN Growth Fund in supporting SMMEs, small business and co-operatives by funding their projects. For growth, it is businesses like these that require comprehensive business and technical support, advisory services and economic

infrastructure so that small enterprises can improve their business operations.

We intend to continue to fund enterprises that meet the qualifying criteria, including SMMEs aimed at ensuring the establishment and promotion of sustainable emerging enterprises.

Why am I revealing all this? I am stating these successes in order to inspire and jostle into action many other Makhathinis out there to let them know that it is possible and it is doable. Ever a relentless entrepreneur, Makhathini realised that you don't have to place your proverbial eggs into one basket. After his start-up, NNK Logistics, he knew that the glass ceiling could and should be shattered and he identified a need for a new venture in medical waste treatment in South Africa.

His belief in joining forces as black business has seen him partnering with another black entrepreneur, Dr Skiti of Buhle Waste to create one of the biggest black joint ventures in South Africa. In the process Mr Makhathini has given work opportunities to hundreds of people.

We are very proud of this. We are proud because Mr Makhathini did not just rest on his laurels after a single contract but used it to open closed doors which were previously shut to black people in this niche field of medical waste and treatment. . It is amazing how you have traversed and navigated such a highly regulated industry.

I am proud that you did not just sit in your corner, but you have been driven by an expansionist agenda. This is why today you have a sizeable footprint spanning four provinces, namely; KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Free State and Gauteng. I am adamant that it will not end there but that in future you will add this value to all nine provinces and beyond our borders.

The state-of-the-art Treatment Facility we are viewing today should serve a good investment in that whatever happens with public contracts you have already future-proofed your business.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you well Mr Makhathini together with your clients and staff as you commission these machines. The message from the government is that you may prosper and make the communities around you prosper as well. Congratulations.

I thank you.

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