

NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

Premier praises Zuma over King Shaka project success

SUN REPORTER

THEY worked together while one was the province's health MEC and the other the economic department boss . . .

This time they met as president and premier!

KZN Premier Zweli Mkhize paid tribute to the country's president Jacob Zuma in Durban yesterday.

And they were not patting each other on the back over political victories.

Zuma pioneered the construction of the Dube Trade Port and King Shaka International Airport in his heyday as provincial economic development MEC.

"Today is a culmination of years of hard work and perseverance by different former provincial premiers and MECs," said Mkhize.

"His excellency JG Zuma was at the forefront of the establishment of this facility when he was the MEC.

"Despite mounting opposition to the idea, he showed visionary leadership by bringing together stakeholders who had different views—but he united them behind a common goal."



Premier Zweli Mkhize

Mkhize said investments into the construction of the airport had resulted in the province being a preferred destination for conferencing, tourism and leisure.

He said the airport had recorded more than five million passengers between January and December last year.

The new Dube Trade Port is expected to expand the capacity of KZN to import and export goods.

"The principal component of the Dube Trade Port is a new international

passenger and cargo airport, but it's the new facility's proximity to the harbours of Durban and Richards Bay that gives it the edge as a transport and logistics hub," Mkhize said.

He said its key economic aims include:

- Creating an operating business environment that's good for growth and development.
- Helping local businesses to increase their profile of high-value manufactured exports.
- Attracting new investors to the region as part of the global manufacturing platform.



President Jacob Zuma

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