

TO : All Media

DATE : Thursday, 16 April 2009

**ISSUED BY : Department of Minerals and Energy
Communications Directorate**

**Media Invitation: Launching of the Amatyamhlophe Quarry
Project and Information Session on 20 April 2009**

The Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, invites members of the media to attend the launching of the Amatyamhlophe Quarry Project and an information session on issues related to mining and energy.

Amatyamhlophe is a quarry situated at Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape. Two young women from the Eastern Cape formed a company and approached the local chief, Chief Lehana of the Elungini District, for permission to mine the quarry. This was duly granted by the Chief.

The women subsequently approached the Department of Minerals and Energy to apply for a mining license. After all the requirements had been met the license was granted towards the end of 2008. This is in line with Government's policies of empowering women. The Department has committed itself financially by funding the mining equipment. The project will empower and encourage women around the area to develop interest in mining.

A market for the raw product (dolerite) has been sought from the local municipalities and this will be used for road and housing development.

THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AS FOLLOWS:

**Date : 20 April 2009
Time : 10h00
Place : Mfanta Township, Mount Fletcher,
Eastern Cape**

For telephonic interviews contact :

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For attending media, RSVP:

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