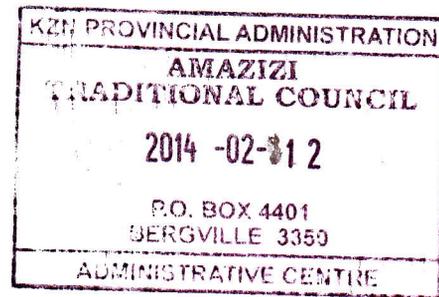


**Amazizi Tribal Authority**  
**P.O Box 4401 , Bergville 3350**  
**PRESS RELEASE**



10 February 2014

We, the traditional leadership of the AmaZizi, wish to respond to recent news in the media about the plans of DEDT to extend the proposed Busingatha cableway. We are very concerned that our statement of 13 December 2013 about the cableway has still received no response from the department.

We made it clear that the meeting held in the Busingatha on 23 November 2013 was held without consulting us. We emphasised that it showed great lack of respect to us as the royal family, and to the AmaZizi people, because we were in mourning for the death of a member of the royal family. The brother of our late Nkosi Miya was to be buried the next day and we were preparing for the funeral on the day that the meeting was held. We know that many buses came in that day bringing many people from areas outside Busingatha and the AmaZizi.

We also made it clear that, although some people claim that we support the cableway we do not. We do not want it on our land. Our late Nkosi Miya never agreed to the proposal. He wanted his people to benefit from community projects and continue managing their own areas, without being manipulated or disturbed by outsiders who might come to our area to make money for themselves, or take land and jobs from our people or disturb our culture. He always spoke strongly about the conservation of all living and cultural heritage belonging to the area. That is why he authorised the planning of a community nature reserve and wilderness area.

Even after our position was published in newspapers and we made it clear to DEDT, we have had no response from the department. There has been no apology for the great disrespect shown to us by the Busingatha meeting (held on 23 November 2013). Instead DEDT have released a media statement in which they say they are thinking of pushing the cableway further into Lesotho. They say nothing about consultation with us or admit to the offence they have caused us.

Long years of planning and working for our community nature reserve and wilderness area are being ignored. We have made a proper Management Plan for this area with expert help and do not want this cableway on our land. Our ideas for hotel development just outside our nature reserve are also being ignored. There has been a professional review of the draft Final Business Plan of DEDT that shows it is not accurate and the cableway will fail. Our nature reserve and wilderness area and the hotel developments just outside could give many more sustainable jobs and opportunities to our people than the small number of local jobs (about 60) that the cableway might bring. Why is DEDT ignoring the royal family and traditional leadership of the AmaZizi as well as the project we have been working on for so long?

*Sigungu Miya*  
Sigungu Miya: Spokesman AmaZizi Royal Family

*Mangamajayi Inkosi's GRANDFATHER*

*G.M. Miya Spokesperson T/C.*