

Message from the MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Mr Bheki Cele



**MEC: Transport, Community
Safety & Liaison
Mr B.H. Cele**

Gender transformation represents one of government's key priorities in its quest to create a better life for all our people. In the previous political dispensation women were marginalized and obstructed from taking their rightful place across the political, social and economic spectrum.

However, just eleven years since the advent of democracy, our transformation agenda is delivering results and we are seeing women playing a meaningful role in the development of our country.

I am proud to say that since my appointment to the provincial cabinet as MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, I have accelerated gender transformation with the appointment of six women to senior positions. These appointments together with the Department's ongoing process of transformation reflects our tangible commitment to equity and is visible in the changing face of our organization.



Ladies in senior managerial positions at the Department
*(Back l-r) Ms T. Mabaso, Mrs S Grobbelaar, Ms C. Zwane, Ms T Nzuza & Ms B. Nogwanya
(Front l-r) Ms G. Xaba, Mrs S. Duze, Mrs K Gounder & Ms V. Cunliffe*

Today at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport you will see women who are senior manager, engineers and even law enforcement officers. These women are casting aside stereotypes and are overcoming prejudices, in their quest to serve their province and their country!

In terms of broader transformation, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is actively contributing to the socio-economic empowerment of marginalized sectors through a stringent procurement process that is underpinned by Black Economic Empowerment with an emphasis on women empowerment, ensuring that women, rightfully get a larger slice of the economic pie.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has an equally impressive poverty alleviation project in place. The Zibambele Road Maintenance Project has won an Impumelelo Innovation Award for its impact in reducing poverty and improving the lives of the poor.

The programme, which favours woman-headed households, empowers communities by providing them with a life-line source of income in return for routine road maintenance.

Zibambele contractors have been clustered into savings clubs and have thus far collectively save more than R2 million.

We are now encouraging and supporting these contractors to form co-operatives to unlock land adjacent to transport corridors, into productive agricultural projects.

I therefore take this opportunity of saluting the women of our Province for their role in the growth and development of our nation.