

MEDIA ALERT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 07 OCTOBER 2005
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

PLEASE TAKE OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS BY MEC BHEKI CELE

MEC CELE TO ADDRESS SAFETY MATTERS KWANONGOMA
SATURDAY 08 OCTOBER 2005, KWANONGOMA STADIUM AT 9AM

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele will address the community of KwaNongoma on community safety and policing concerns at KwaNongoma Stadium at 9am as part of his provincial programme of addressing safety matters in the province.

There have been a number of criminal related cases reported by members of the community in a number Community Service Centres at KwaNongoma and surrounding areas. The department of Community Safety and Liaison under MEC Cele serves under the mandate of defending the weak, "Safety of the people of this province comes first and we shall all work together in building a South Africa that truly belongs to all" said Cele.

The event is expected to be attended by members of the Portfolio Committee of Community Safety and Liaison, Amakhosi, members of the Community Policing Forum and members of the community.

MEC CELE TO ADDRESS THE COMMUNITY OF KWAMAPHUMULO ON
PUBLIC TRANSPORT ISSUES IN THE AREA
SUNDAY 09 OCTOBER 2005, SABUYAZI STADIUM- MAPHUMULO AT
9am

MEC Cele will visit the community of KwaMaphumulo on Sunday 09 October at 9am to discuss serious issues of concern around public transport in the area, this follows an outcry from Amakhosi of KwaMaphumulo and members the community due to sufferings caused by unavailability of public transport in the area.

About two months ago, MEC Cele appointed the Tribunal to investigate the cause of conflict between Stanger and Maphumulo Taxi Associations. The Tribunal announced its findings and stated that the registration process of Maphumulo Taxi Owners Association must start *de novo*. The department of Transport and both associations entered into an agreement to work on an interim plan that Maphumulo operates its local routes and Stanger operates its local and long distance routes.

There have been reports and allegations of intimidation of passengers and bus drivers by the members of Maphumulo Taxi Association. The association closed down its operation last week and they have since prevented any form of public transport to move in the area. This has caused a lot of inconvenience to learners, workers and ordinary members of the community.

MEC CELE TO LAUNCH HIGH-TECH MOBILE UNIT AT INGWAVUMA
MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2005, MOSSVOLT SPORTS GROUND
INGWAVUMA AT 9 AM

As part of Public Transport Month Activities, **MEC Cele will officially launch the High-Tech Computerised Learners License Mobile Unit in Ngwavuma on Monday 10 October at Mossvolt Sports Ground.** This is aimed at rooting out fraud and corruption and to improve accessibility of learner's license testing to rural communities.

In August this year a number of departments of Transport Officials were arrested for fraud and corruption charges of issuing illegal and fraudulent

drivers licenses and learner's licenses. The National department is currently executing a forensic investigation into learners and drivers license fraud which will cost the department millions of rands.

The current system of awarding driving licenses in South Africa, comprising of a learners licence test on paper and physical driving test in the presence of an examiner has largely remained unchanged for more than 30 years. The new system is aimed at addressing fraud and corruption but furthermore to introduce user friendly and highly advance computerised system for skills development to both learners and officials.

KwaZulu-Natal department of Transport is the first province to introduce the highly technological computerised system; however the significance of launching the campaign in Ngwavuma is particularly to accelerate service delivery programmes aimed at developing the rural poor communities.

KUPHELILE FINOTO!

WATCH THE SPACE!

Ends

Media contact: Nonkululeko Mbatha
Media Liaison Officer
KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, Community
Safety and Liaison (083 645 6252)

For transport contact: Nonhlanhla Ndwandwe – 082 904 6229