

DATE: 13 JUNE 2007

MEC BHEKI CELE TO CONDUCT A SOD TURNING CEREMONY OF MBALANE RIVER BRIDGE

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport Community, Safety and Liaison Mr Bheki Cele will conduct a sod turning ceremony of the Mbalane river bridge at Muden (Greytown) near Lembethe High School on Friday 15 June 2007 at 10 am; this follows a request by Grey town Rural Road Transport Forum (RRTF) who identified the bridge as one of their priorities.

Previously the community had to rely on a suspended pedestrian bridge that was constructed by the Department of Agriculture across the Mooi River to provide access for the communities of the Muden and Greytown areas. However, due to lack of maintenance, this foot bridge deteriorated to such a degree that it is no longer safe to use. This is mainly due to the deterioration of the wooden planks used for the deck of the bridge.

The bridge will cost approximately R7 million and its construction is expected to be completed early in 2008. Once completed, the bridge will give access to the community residing on Portion 2 of the farm Scheepers Daal, consisting of one Primary School, 40 households and approximately 240 persons.

In keeping to its slogan *Defending The Weak*. The Department has embarked on a vicious campaign on rural development aimed at providing access road services and eradicate poverty.

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