

MEDIA ALERT

15 October 2007

MEC CELE OFFICIATE THE SOD-TURNING OF MAIN ROAD P73 IN UMZUMBE AS PART OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele will tomorrow (16/10/07) at 10h00 am at Esibanini Primary School (sports ground) officiate the sod-turning of Main Road P73 in Umzumbe.

The road has a total length of 85km of which 10 km is black top and 75km gravel. The project will see the 75km radius gravel being upgraded to a black top and is estimated to cost the department approximately R375 million. The upgrading of the road is expected to be completed in a period of five years and will create more that 375 000 job opportunities for locals and people living in the nearby surrounding areas. The project is also expected to contract approximately 200 Vukuzakhe Contractors who will be expected to employ locals for the upgrade.

Main Road P73 currently serves a population of approximately 30 000 people, 28 schools and four clinics under the District Council 43 in Umzumbe and District Council 43 serving under Ixopo. The road will also create a direct link between Mtwalume/Sipofu and High Flats, and in addition it will also provide a secondary link to St. Faiths via D168.

“Our mandate as government is to ensure that the lives of our people particularly in rural areas is embettered and this project will create job opportunities as well as easy access to essential services like schools, clinic and work”, said Cele.

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACT: Nonkululeko Mbatha (083 645 6252)