



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

PRESS RELEASE

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MEC BHEKI CELE TOGETHER WITH MEC INA CRONJE TO CONDUCT A SOD TURNING CEREMONY AT UMSINGA

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr Bheki Cele together with MEC for Education Mrs Ina Cronje will tomorrow - Saturday (17/03/2007) conduct a sod turning ceremony at **Umsinga kwaNxamalala (Gudlintaba area) at 10h00 am**. This follows an outcry from the community requesting government intervention in addressing the needs of the poverty stricken area of Umsinga in KZN Midlands.

KwaZulu-Natal cabinet declared Umsinga as one of the areas in the province that is faced with enormous poverty and unemployment. It is on that score that an integrated approach between Department of Transport and Department of Education is crucial in fast tracking service delivery in the area. Tomorrow the two MEC's will conduct a sod turning of a school and an access road of 8.5 kilometres with an estimated cost of R5.5 million.

The Department of transport serves under the mandate of ensuring safety and furthermore to build access roads to basic services e.g. clinics, schools and agricultural sectors. The Umsinga transport project is also expected to service an estimated population of 10 000 people who cannot access basic services. **The Umsinga project is expected to be constructed within the period of four months and it will fall under the EPWP methodology of intensifying labour intensive programmes.**

Ends

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