

PRESS RELEASE

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MEC CELE TO OFFICIATE THE SOD-TURNING OF WELA BRIDGE AND LAUNCH OPERATION KUSHUNQUTHULI

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Cele will officiate the sod-turning ceremony of the Wela Vehicle Bridge on Thursday (25/10/07) at Bhekifa High School at 09h00.

Construction duration of the project will be approximately nine months and the estimated cost will be R8.2 million. The proposed bridge will be an advantage to the community and the surrounding areas. It will particularly be useful for pupils attending the school as well as the entire community using the D1708 road.

This construction follows after an incident whereby a bakkie carrying passengers in the rear was washed away by the over-flowing Wela River during the December 2006 floods while attempting to cross. The structure serves approximately 200 households around the area, and it also serves facilities near the bridge, which includes a Primary School, High School, Community clinic as well as a Supermarket.

The construction of this bridge will create job opportunities for local people and skills will be transferred for people to sustain their lives after the construction of the bridge.

MEC Cele will also be handing over keys to the Shabalala family for their new house and property that was affected by the road reserve, which needed to be relocated and rebuilt at a new site.

“We have recently launched ‘Operation Kushunquthuli’ which is aimed at constructing and maintaining rural roads thereby creating employment opportunities for rural people and making sure that there is a transfer of skills as a benefit to communities” said Cele.

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