



## **PRESS RELEASE**

TO : ALL MEDIA  
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ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

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### **MEC CELE TO FULFIL A PROMISE FOR A HIGHLY REQUESTED BRIDGE**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Cele will tomorrow (26/03/08) at Sahlumbe area, Weenen, near Estcourt, at 09.00am officiate the sod-turning of a river bridge that will be constructed over Tugela River near Thuthukani Primary School.

The sod-turning is subsequent to the community outcry beefed up by media reports that scholars from Thuthukani Primary School and other local schools cross the river using inflated tyre tubes when

going to school. The bridge is set to serve as an access route for scholars from the Sahlumbe High School and to the Sahlumbe clinic and about 70 families residing on the south of the river will benefit from the bridge.

Reports have indicated that learners also use buckets to keep their school uniforms and books dry when crossing the river and that annually four to five children drown as a result of a swollen river. The bridge will also provide access to public transport to those communities residing on the north of the river.

The estimated cost for the bridge is at R24 million and the construction of the bridge will take approximately 15 months, commencing from April 2008. The construction of the bridge will also benefit locals as more jobs will be created through this project.

**“Our department has a legislative mandate to manage the transportation system in KwaZulu Natal. This includes among others the construction, upgrading, maintenance and control of the provincial road network”** said Cele.

ENDS

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