



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA ALERT

DATE: 30 OCTOBER 2008

MEC CELE OFFICIALLY CLOSES OCTOBER TRANSPORT MONTH ACTIVITIES BY OFFICIATING THE OPENING OF A MULTI-MILLION IXOPO COST CENTRE

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele will officially close the October Transport month activities by officiating the opening of a multi-million Ixopo cost centre at Ixopo Sports ground at 9h00 tomorrow (Friday, 31 October 2008).

In line with the October Transport months' theme ***"Transport Infrastructure-creating a lasting legacy 2010 and beyond"*** the department seeks to ensure that whilst its focus is on 2010 and beyond, it continues to provide transport infrastructure to rural communities who may not be direct beneficiaries of 2010 projects, hence there has been a roll-out of activities intended to improve the standard of living for KZN citizens particularly in rural areas.

These activities includes the Launch of Transport Academy, the opening and sod-turning of Nxamalala extension, Mbangweni, Mvundlwini and iNyonini roads at uMsinga, the opening of a multi-million weigh bridge project at Gingindlovu, sod-turning of iBhokwe bridge at Vryheid, Mafakatini road upgrade, public transport indaba at Esikhawini, sod-turning of public transport shelters, opening of local authority learner license centre at uLundi, opening of public transport shelters at Nongoma. The province was graced with the presence of the National Minister for

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Transport Mr. Jeff Hadebe for three days to visit the La Mercy airport for a 2010 readiness progress tour, sod-turning of R102 entrance to the airport, opening of Kwa-Sonto Bridge and the Hamba Uphephile Soccer tournament at Mpumalanga-Hammarsdale. Numerous road blocks were also conducted to ensure 100% compliance by all road users.

The department is under no illusion about the magnitude of the tasks at hand and the obligation it has in ensuring that the infrastructural systems are responsive to national policy imperatives and contribute meaningfully to economic development and growth of the province and the entire country. Therefore, the official opening of this Cost Centre bears testimony to the commitment by government to the development of an effective and efficient transport system that is fully responsive to the needs of our people. The construction cost of the Centre was R 4, 3 million.

“Our intention is to maximize and monitor skills development and retention strategy for officials to better position the Department to deliver on its mandate whilst ensuring transformation of the Department. This will ensure that not only are the scarce skills attracted and retained, but also that the department does not lose the skills already acquired. With this new facility and I trust that it will be a meaningful and productive venue in which society benefits,” said Cele.

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