



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA INVITATION

DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2008

MEC CELE TO OFFICIATE OPENING OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SHELTERS AT KWANONGOMA, Saturday 18 October - KwaQgikazi Sports Ground @ 9am

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Cele will officiate the opening of transport shelters at kwaNongoma tomorrow (Saturday 18/10/2008). Cele will also embark on a house to house visit to families who have lost breadwinners due to road accidents in the areas of Ulundi, Nongoma and surroundings.

Cele is also expected to showcase transport infrastructure projects – upgrade from Gravel to Blacktop under “Operation Kushunqu’thuli”; road P49 Nongoma to Vryheid, P52 Nongoma to Pongola and P235 Nongoma to Hlabisa which fall under African Renaissance Road Upgrading Programme (ARRUP)

In terms of the National Land Transition Act, public transport planning and infrastructure implementation is the responsibility of individual municipalities. However due to lack of skills and capacity, government have taken an initiative to provide financial and technical support to some municipalities. Thirty public transport shelters with a total cost of R4 million have been built within the Nongoma municipality. During the construction of these shelters, local people were utilized, hence boosting the local economy.

Cele to officiate the opening of Mafakatini Project : Sunday 19 October - Esilaheni Sports Ground @ 9am

MEC Cele will be joined by the Mayor of Msunduzi, her worship Ms Zanele Hlatshwayo for the opening of a blacktop road D1133 which provides the main access to Mafakatini. The total cost of the upgrade is R8.4 million. It was constructed over a period of nine months and is 3, 64 KM long.

“In keeping to the ideals to Defending the Weak, the KZN Department of Transport is committed to uplift the lives of the people particularly in the rural areas. As the rainy season approaches, the people of Nongoma will no longer suffer as they will now have shelters whilst they wait for their transportation. The D1133 serves a large community and is the main access to basic services e.g. schools and clinics,” said Cele.

ENDS

Media Contact: Nonkululeko Mbatha (083 645 6252)