



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

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE : 19 February 2009

**MEC CELE OFFICIATES THE OPENING OF MBALANE VEHICLE BRIDGE AND
KWA-LEJE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

THE KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Cele will on **Sunday (22 February 2009)** officiate the opening of Mbalane Vehicle Bridge and Kwa-Leje Pedestrian Bridge. The event will be held at Mbalane Sport Ground at 9h00.

The KwaLeje Pedestrian Bridge that goes over the Mooi River in the District Municipality of Umzinyathi will have social benefits for the Community. This bridge will create easy access to four schools, Hospitals, Clinics and Police Stations. The total value of the project is estimated at R4.010.027.30

In the early 2000's, a land restitution process was completed on a portion 2 of the farm Scheepers Daal. This portion of land lies to the east of the Mooi River, in the Mudén Area. Vehicular access to the property was through another commercial farmer's property, as no bridge existed over the Mooi River in the area. Furthermore, this portion of the farm is surrounded by high steep mountains, which make it impossible to provide access to the property by means of a normal road, without crossing the Mooi River.

During 2002, the Department of Transport constructed a local road, L1859 (also known as Mbalane Road) from P12-2, starting at Mudén to an existing pedestrian bridge over the Mooi River on the western side of the river. The main purpose of this road was to provide access for the community via the pedestrian bridge to Mudén and

Greytown. The Mbalane vehicular bridge will therefore create proper access that would prevent trespassing on private property.

“Since our Liberation in 1994 our government has fully committed itself to bettering the lives of the people, hence the department of Transport is dedicated not only with the construction of infrastructure that will give access to economic growth but also to impart skills and create sustainable jobs for the local people , especially those in the rural areas. The KZN Department of Transport continue vigorously to defend the weak at all levels of society,” said Cele.

ENDS

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