



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

**UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA**

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 16/10/2012

#### **KZN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT EMBARKS ON A SERIOUS RECONSTRUCTION OF ROAD STRUCTURES DAMAGED BY FLOODS.**

KWAZULU-NATAL Department of Transport has embarked on a multi-billion rand programme to eradicate backlog of road infrastructure caused by floods in the recent past, especially bridges that were swept away by floods, leaving some communities separated from the key important life-saving services.

The province, since 2008, has been experiencing heavy floods which affected severely the provincial road infrastructure and caused havoc in the provincial road network.

This includes structures like bridges and roads which were washed away. Since the 2008 floods the damage to the road infrastructure came to R1.1 billion for the uGu district alone.

In November 2009 heavy floods once again hit the province and the damage estimated at R 199 million was done to the most needed infrastructure.

Again in January 2010 heavy rain fall visited the province and left a damage to the tune of R205 million whilst the 2011 floods left damages estimated to R312 million.

This forced the Department of Transport, in the last financial year, to divert its resources to focus on those roads and bridges which were damaged by floods at an expense of the construction on new projects.

These floods were impacting negatively on the movement of people in the province, thus affecting badly its economy.

Yesterday, KZN MEC for Transport, Community and Liaison, Willies Mchunu officiated at the handing over of the Malangeni bridge, located on the South Coast of the province, under uGu District municipality.

The Malangeni bridge was damaged during the 2008 floods and is a strategic link for the community of Malangeni to the major route, which is the N2 to Port Shepstone and Durban.

A total of R9 million was spent fixing this structure which was washed away. Yesterday it was revealed that 36 bridges were damaged by floods in the entire province.

Mchunu announced that 18 of those have been re-constructed with a tune of R134 million and now providing proper and safer access to communities.

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However, there are still a further 18 bridge structures to be re-constructed and MEC Mchunu has committed his department in ensuring that such structures are attended to.

**"The opening of the Malangeni bridge and many other structures which have been reconstructed is a clear indication that government is seriously and progressively eradicating the backlog caused by floods in our province.**

**"The fact that we have re- constructed 18 structures is a clear indication that we are serious about ensuring that road infrastructure is accessible, reliable and safe.**

**"We are prioritizing the remaining structures as we will be constructing 8 in next financial year.**

**"However, over and above re- constructing the damaged structures in the province, we are also moving with speed in constructing new bridges and upgrading new roads," said Mchunu.**

Ends

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