



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL MEDIA  
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ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR/EDITORS, PR WIRES

#### **UPGRADE OF P368 A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT FOR GREYTOWN-UMSINGA-MADADENI CORRIDOR**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, today launched the first phase of the upgraded main road P-368 in KwaKopi, Umsinga, under the Inkosi Simakade Mchunu, who was in attendance.

The first phase is 9.7 kilometres - out of a total 34 kilometres which will be completed with a total investment of approximately R400 million - road that has been upgraded from gravel to tar road. The road is located between Embangweni, KwaNtabadini and Gujini villages of the Umsinga municipality, which counts amongst the most underdeveloped areas in the country where citizens are hardest hit by the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. While many families in several communities already have access to basic services, the backlog remains huge as many are yet to receive water and electricity, for example.

The upgrade of roads infrastructure is critical as it not only connect communities to each, socio-economic amenities such as schools, clinics and towns, but it helps provide the much needed jobs that help families put food on the table. At least 400 jobs have so far been created in this specific project.

Mchunu noted that this was a substantial investment into the Umsinga local municipality as well as the greater Umzinyathi district.

**"During my budget vote speech address in August I declared that as part of rural development we will continue to focus on uplifting rural communities. This is because we fully understand that roads and transport systems are the lifeblood of the economy. We are also conscious that having a good road network not only allows citizens' easy access to amenities, but it also means an economic injection for the local businesses, which helps in the development of an area. Moreover, these development programmes are part of fulfilling the national and provincial strategic objectives including job creation, skills development as well as rural development," he said.**

**"The launch forms part of a programme-packed October Transport Month 2014, which also entails intensifying road safety awareness and law enforcement programmes to save people's lives on our roads."**

**"Today I am very proud to hand over the tarred 9.7 kilometre-long road to the community of Umsinga. I would like to thank you for your patience. We were here just before elections like we had been here much earlier, and we will continue to be here in the future, to deliver services that meet the developmental needs of our people. This is government at work, centred on fulfilling the will of the people," said Mchunu.**

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