



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Tuesday, 13 October 2015
ATTENTION: Editors and News Editors

R42 MILLION BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION TO IMPROVE MATRIC RESULTS AND SCHOOLING IN NKANDLA

NKANDLA - Matric learners readying to sit for final examinations in Nkandla, under uThungulu District Municipality, have been given a lifeline as the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, handed over a newly constructed iNsuzi river bridge.

This bridge will see especially matric learners in the area writing all examinations and saved from crossing iNsuzi river bridge, which previously flooded during heavy rains and affected schooling and learners ended up missing examinations.

The R45 million vehicle and pedestrian bridge will also provide a safer link to the eMthungweni High School, KwaManqondo Combined primary, Ntakanya High School, Magwaza primary school, Magwaza secondary, Sizwesonke junior school, Emphalwini Combined, and Endumeni primary.

The community of eNkandla will also benefit through this bridge as it connects them with amenities such as the Mthungweni provincial clinic, taxi rank and an important link between main roads P15 (from Kranskop to Nkandla) and P16 (from Kranskop to Nquthu). More than 42 job opportunities were created for local community members during construction.

Addressing well over 3, 000 community members in Mthungweni, in Nkandla today, MEC Mchunu said he was optimistic that the pass rate and school enrolment will improve in Nkandla because learners no longer had to worry about reaching schools, because of the new, state of the art bridge.

"Learners must be encouraged to work hard as they prepare for their final examinations, coming soon. Now, you (learners) will have easy access to schools and you have no reason not to be in school on time. This bridge will connect the community of eNkandla with important service centres. The roll out of infrastructure projects during this October Transport Month is our response to a call by President Jacob Zuma to invest massively in developing rural areas. Before this bridge was upgraded, community members used to

suffer during heavy rains as school children could not go to school. Now, this belongs to the past,” said MEC Mchunu.

Skhumbuzo Bhengu (21), who is a matric learner at Mthungwini High School in Nkandla, commended government for focusing investment in rural communities, saying life will never be the same again.

“During heavy rains we could not attend school. This affected us as we would fall behind with our studies and therefore our performance during examinations took a dip. We are now confident that we will do better. The entire population of Nkandla will benefit through this bridge,” said Skhumbuzo.

The project was identified under the Department of Transport Emergency Flood Relief Programme and implemented under the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport Bridge Programme. The bridge has improved the safety of the road network users.

The traffic volumes of 1, 200 vehicles a month could be expected to increase.

Moreover, Mchunu announced that the department would soon begin preparations leading to the upgrade of main road P706, from KwaNxamalala (P15) to Manyana (Jamson’s Drift) or (P16/2), along which Nsuze bridge is located.

Ends.

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 072- 8031462/ 079- 6995755/ Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi 081 018 0518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport