



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Tuesday, 18 October 2017

### **MEC KAUNDA OFFICIALLY OPENS THE STATE OF THE ART ROAD P451 IN KWAHLABISA**

KwaHlabisa, Umkhanyakude District – The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, yesterday officially opened phase one of main road P451, in Nhlwathi, located in the KwaHlabisa-Big Five Local Municipality, in Umkhanyakude District.

The road has undergone an upgrade from gravel to tar, stretching 30 kilometres in the first phase, and creating an all-weather access route to major corridors for the communities in KwaHlabisa, Mpembeni and Mdletshe Traditional Councils. The community of eNhlwathi expressed joy and pride as Kaunda cut the ribbon, which marked the official opening of the road to public use.

Kaunda went on to address approximately 3 000 members of the community, where he said: "The construction of this main road will serve the community by providing a safe and all-weather access route for children going to schools, and patients needing to access health care facilities as well as members of the communities traveling to various places of destination. The road, which is to be completed at 54 kilometres for a total investment of R790 million, is also going to be useful as it supports the provincial government's priority growth sectors such as agriculture and tourism."

The next phase will start in April next year (2018), and completing in March 2022.

"In line with our government's Radical Socio-Economic Transformation policy, approximately 56 emerging contractors, including 11 sub-contractors, have benefited from the project and an estimated 961 job opportunities were created for the members of the communities living around the corridor. There have also been opportunities for skills development and transfer, which has been achieved by providing accredited training throughout the construction phase. A total of 60 local youth have received CETA Accredited Training in Roadwork's Construction under the Expanded Public Works programme," added Kaunda.

Ends.

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