



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
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ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

#### **MEC KAUNDA EMBARKS ON A GROUND-BREAKING SERVICE DELIVERY OPERATION SIYAHLOLA TO ASSESS ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN PHONGOLO, NORTH OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, yesterday (23 March 2017) undertook a road infrastructure and service delivery assessment as part of the Operation Siyahlola programme.

Yesterday's programme kicked off in oPhongolo during the inspection of main road D1867, which is currently under construction. This 78km road, which is being upgraded from gravel to tar (blacktop), will link uPhongolo and eDumbe (Paulpietersburg), and all the way to Vryheid.

Already, six (6) kilometres have been completed and the next phase is expected to resume in the next few months with the construction of another additional nine (9) kilometres. There will be a minimum of four large bridges constructed as part of this major project estimated to total R1.2 billion in investment when it is completed in the next five years.

Through this programme, Kaunda said the government wants to ensure that projects are completed at an agreed timeline and facilitate regular report backs to the communities where challenges are encountered.

**"Operation Siyahlola provides an essential tool of ensuring effective monitoring of our infrastructure delivery. We owe it our people to update them on the progress we are making and report back to them where we are experiencing problems and delays. This is part of the commitment by our government to interface with the people and involve them in decision making. Citizens must own service delivery projects, because they are for the benefit. On our part as a department we need to improve the manner in which we function and move with speed in delivering services to the people,"** said Kaunda.

Kaunda also proceeded to inspect the upgrade of access road, D1925, which is currently under construction of four kilometres.

He made an undertaking that Operation Siyahlola will be the order of the day and warned lazy workers and contractors to ensure efficiency in delivering services.

Kaunda also assured the people of oPhongolo that the provincial government is determined to champion the Radical Socio-Economic Transformation agenda through making a number of interventions, including the expansion of beneficiation in the construction sector. He vowed that no excuses will be tolerated in achieving the desired outcomes of changing the province's socio-economic landscape.

Before addressing the community of KwaLubisi, Kaunda also went further to inspect the Belgrade satellite police station, which was requested by the community but has not functioned optimally up to now.

**“We must fact-track the functioning of this police station. Any further delays will amount to disservice and injustice to the community. The space is available and now we are facilitating the signing of a lease agreement between all the affected parties, and ensure that the station becomes of assistance to members of the community,”** said Kaunda.

ENDS.

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