



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA ADVISORY

4 MAY, 2018

MEC KAUNDA CONDUCTS SIYAPHLOLA VISIT OF UTHUKELA BRIDGES IN ILEMBE DISTRICT

Facing crocodiles and the possibility of drowning while crossing uThukela river will be a thing of the past for school learners of KwaDukuza and Maphumulo in the ILembe District following the completion of the Nyakana, Mabhobhane and Mvumase bridges which learners and citizens now use in their daily travels.

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mxolisi Kaunda will, ahead of tabling his departments' budget speeches lead a delegation to the ILembe District Municipality on Monday, 7 May 2018, to inspect these infrastructural projects that the Department had committed to build in previous budget speeches as part of his Siyaphlola Service Delivery Monitoring Programme.

The Nyakana uThukela River Bridge, constructed at an investment of R89.5 million serves learners and communities from Mankenganeni community on the northern side of the river. The benefitting learners attend the Nyakana Combined School, Banguni High School and Tshelabantu Combined School within the Emdlebeni community on the southern side of the river.

Previously, the communities had relied on the services of a Good Samaritan Mr. Amos Dlodla 65 who used his boat over the years to help the learners cross safely every morning from Mankenganeni to Emdlebeni. The Mabhobhane uThukela River Bridge assists school learners attending Inkonzane Primary School, Embusweni Primary School, Inkonzane Secondary School, Phandaphansi Primary School and the Mpungeni Primary School. This bridge was constructed for an investment of R130.8 million. In addition, this bridge links District Road D1533 to main road P710 and will also provide a much-needed link to the towns of Mandeni and Eshowe. The Mvumase uThukela River Pedestrian Bridge assists learners who attend Mvumase Primary School, Empungeni Primary School, Siyacothoza Primary School and the Ezithabeni Senior School. It also provides access to the Uqaqeni and the Mtabaqumbi Provincial Clinics.

The processes leading to the construction of these bridges started in 2012 in response to requests from communities, particularly about the safety of hundreds of learners and thousands of members of the communities crossing Uthukela river to school and other destinations. The construction of these bridges has ensured the safety of travelers, markedly

reduced late-coming and absenteeism and eliminated incidents of drowning.

“We are proud as the Department that these three infrastructural projects are nearer completion as only a few finishing touches remain. The communities are already making use of these bridges which has ensured their safe travel. I felt it was important, that I visit some of the infrastructural projects that we had committed to building in our previous budget speeches so that when I report back in the Legislature, I give a report of infrastructural projects that I have seen and monitored myself,” said Kaunda.

Details of the Siyahlola Monitoring Programme are as follows:

Date: 07 May 2018

06h30—07h15: MEC and delegation to receive briefing and conduct site inspection of Nyakana Bridge

07h30-08h00: MEC to address learners at Nyankana Combined school who are beneficiaries of the infrastructural project

10h00-10h30 MEC and delegation to receive briefing and conduct site inspection of Vumase Bridge

10h45-11h15 MEC and delegation to receive briefing and conduct site inspection of Mabhobhane Bridge

Media contacts:

Mluleki Mtungwa: 0609741140/ 0606511138 Mluleki.Mtungwa@kzntransport.gov.za

Kwanele Ncalane: 072803142/ 0796995755 Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi: 0810180518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNtransport

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