



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA STATEMENT

08 October 2019

### **COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF NEW JERSEY BARRIERS BRINGS HOPE TO THE COMMUNITY OF UMHLABUYALINGANA**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Ntuli together with the members of the Transport Portfolio committee today, 08 October 2019, conducted the Operation Siyahlola Programme with the aim of assessing the construction of D1824 and New Jersey Barriers.

The Construction of D1842 entails the upgrading of 47.22 kilometres located between the Control Post to Embadleni under Jozini Local Municipality. The upgrade of this road will assist the Oshabeni community by providing all weather safe access to eight (8) schools, and two local clinics.

The construction of a concrete barrier (New Jersey Barriers) along the international border between South Africa and Mozambique is expected to reduce the number of stolen vehicles that are moved across the border. The loss of a minimum of 30 vehicles per month are taken illegally from South Africa the Mozambique border and cattle trafficking and illegal smuggling of contraband that also occur through the border in this area.

However, it is not the objective of the project to control pedestrian movement across the border. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to the creation of additional ports of entry to provide border crossing points for the communities that straddle the international boundary.

Addressing stakeholders at the site of the construction of the new jersey barriers MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Bheki Ntuli said: "The project is strategic in addressing the scourge of vehicle theft, undocumented foreign nationals and other cross-border crimes. Upon completion, this R50 million project will be complimented by integrated enforcement operations involving various law enforcement agencies working with the Mozambique government," said Ntuli.

Ntuli commented that he has received numerous reports that some members of the police are working with these criminals in smuggling illegal goods like cigarettes into South Africa. "I want to assure you that working with the UMkhanyakude District it will not be business as usual. Those officials involved will be found and brought to book. We shall not allow the criminals and dirty officials undermine our efforts in fighting cross -border crime" said Ntuli.

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Thirty-three youth from Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality have benefited after being trained NQF level 4 and NQF level 2 which is a roadwork construction supervision course. They are now working on site constructing the new jersey barriers. One of the youth beneficiaries Snenhlanhla Njokweni (23) of Mfakubheka said that they were happy that the department was addressing the issue of unemployment among the youth. "Further to addressing the issue of unemployment this project has capacitated us with construction skills that we can use to further our careers and be able to pursue other job opportunities in the further," said Njokweni.

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