

## SECTION 2: MINISTRY



**Director: Ministry**  
**Rev Themba Vundla**

### **DIRECTORATE: MINISTRY**

The office of the Minister exists to:

- support the MEC in achieving his goals and objectives while upholding the principles of accountability to stakeholders, and
- build the profile and enhance the image of the MEC vis à vis the Department.

Minister Ndebele is the longest serving MEC for Transport in the country. He has been intimately involved in the development of many of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport's pioneering programmes such as Asiphephe, Zibambele, Vukuzakhe, the African Renaissance Roads upgrading programme, Taxi Cities and Taxi Co-operatives. Many of these cutting edge programmes are now being adopted at a national level and by other provincial departments. This has placed an additional demand on Ministry staff who are required to organise and host a busy schedule of field visits and presentations.

Minister Ndebele is a strong advocate of participatory democracy and believes in keeping the public well informed, taking their concerns into consideration in how the department prioritises the delivery of public services. Minister Ndebele's commitment to people centred development brings him into daily contact with community leaders and stakeholders in rural development, public transport, road safety, business, religious denominations, academics and the person in the street. Here it is important to emphasise that the public engages Minister Ndebele not only in his capacity as MEC for Transport but also as leader of the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal's coalition government. As such Minister Ndebele's public commitments extend beyond the Transport portfolio to include all spheres of development in KwaZulu-Natal.

A noteworthy achievement this financial year was the improved working relationship between the Ministry, the Department and the Transport Portfolio Committee. A highlight in this regard was the two-day workshop, held in July 2001, which dealt with a historical perspective of portfolio challenges, current programmes and future directions.

The office of the MEC for Transport in KwaZulu-Natal plays a critical support role in meeting the challenges of Minister Ndebele's demanding diary. We are required to research a wide range of interests, liaise with the media, consult with the public and provide comfort to victims of road related violence.