

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Minister's Office



**Director:
Office of the minister
Rev. Themba Vundla**

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The *raison d'etre* for Office of the MEC is 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.

The Department's achievements under the capable leadership of MEC S'bu Ndebele can be attributed to his innovative participation in a variety of leadership roles, especially within the context of African Renaissance Trust, which he leads. Our famous African Renaissance Roads Upgrading Programme, for instance, is indebted to this vision. The MEC's adoption of the Victorian Model continues to benefit the Department, the Province and the country as a whole. The fact that the T-Square Centre has a Memorandum of Agreement with the American Federal Highway is primarily and specifically due to the MEC's broad leadership role outside the Department.

Owing to the fact that the Ministry Directorate is the first point of call for the broader community and that the MEC is the face of the Department, the role of this Directorate is that of the initiator, facilitator, role player and active supporter. This is evidenced by the Directorates active involvement on all Departments' activities without exception. The political volatility in KwaZulu-Natal has necessitated the Ministry's active involvement in certain Directorates to diffuse potentially politically explosive situations, e.g. Public Transport, RTI and Development to mention a few.

The MEC's hands on leadership style has seen the Ministry Directorate involved in organising the following:

- The MEC's visits to accident scenes and visiting accident victims at their homes and in hospital;
- Organising religious gatherings for Road Safety purposes;
- Initiating public-private partnerships, e.g. African Renaissance Trust, Umsobomvu Youth Fund and tertiary institutions.

The year 2002 marked the third year of existence for the Ministry Directorate under the able leadership of Reverend TJ Vundla. This saw the Ministry Directorate fulfilling its mandate with great maturity and growth amidst the turbulent political situation (especially the floor – crossing issue). This together with the fact that the Ministry is the first point of contact for the wider community means that the activities of the Ministry Directorate are determined by the mood of the people we serve. This gives the Directorate multiple responsibilities within and outside the Department. As we go about in enhancing the MEC's image, we have the community as the vantage point all the time.

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The Ministry Directorate's commitment to the citizen's charter ensures that we become accountable to the wider community including our stakeholders. Hence the Ministry's active role in facilitating the Department's Annual Report Back Session.

In terms of parliamentary activities, 2002 saw a radical change in the political party composition in the legislature. The floor crossing legislation saw a seismic shift in the balance of power with our MEC becoming the leader of the majority party in the KZN legislature.

The KwaZulu-Natal Road Traffic Amendment Act 7 of 2002, was passed by the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature on 26 September 2002. This Act enabled the Department to apply Traffic Laws uniformly thereby aligning itself to national legislation, whilst ensuring that the administrative matters remain within the province's competence. The regulations of KZN Roads Act were presented to the Portfolio Committee for information and were adopted.

The office of the MEC continually strives to meet the demands of his hectic diary, liase with the media, conduct research, so as to speak and act from an informed position, reach out to our stakeholders, support the department's programmes and activities.