

Section:2

MINISTER'S OFFICE



*Senior Manager:
Office of the Minister*
Rev. Themba Vundla

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The Office of the MEC's role is broadly defined thus:

- to support the MEC in achieving Department's goals and objectives by on one hand; transparent excellent service delivery and constant accountability to stakeholders;
- on the other hand, to build the profile and enhance the image of the MEC and the Department.

Financial year 2003/2004 marks the end of the second term of office for MEC Ndebele as the MEC for Transport KwaZulu-Natal. This dynamic, innovative, strategic leader who believes in collectivism and participatory democracy when executing his functions continued to put the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport at the forefront of development both nationally and internationally. It is through the MEC's continual involvement in a variety of leadership roles, such as chairman of the African Renaissance Trust as well as co- chairman of the Durban Growth Coalition, that has put the Department on the map. Projects such as; the African Renaissance Roads Upgrading Program and links established with the business fraternity in KwaZulu-Natal have left a clear mark. The Office of the MEC has continually supported the MEC in achieving the abovementioned goals.

As we approach the celebration of ten years of democracy, there are various projects and programs that are indebted to this visionary leader. These projects do not only give recognition to MEC Ndebele but also give a glimpse of milestones achieved and roads travelled. The Asiphephe, Zibambele, Vukuzakhe, Taxi Cities and Taxi Co-operatives, and the Project Victoria model which continue to benefit the Department cannot be underestimated. Furthermore, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department and the American Federal Highway Administration bears testimony to the broad based leadership of the MEC.

The Office of the MEC is undoubtedly indebted to the Head of Department, Dr K.B Mbanjwa, whose co-operation and hard work for long hours has contributed to its success. As a consequence, the Ministry was in a position to drive policies envisioned by the MEC, whilst effective implementation at Departmental level was also realised. In short, behind a successful MEC Ndebele, there was an energetic and hard working Departmental Head. The Office of the MEC had also been working hand in hand with all Directorates in the Department as the Ministry is the first port of call for the public and, more importantly, the MEC is the face of the Department in the eyes of the public. Therefore, the Directorates' support had made the MEC visible and recognised by its multiple stakeholders. To mention a few; religious communities, academics and/or opinion makers, communities, public transport sector, road safety sector, rural development sector, scholars, the business fraternity and others. The visibility of the MEC at various Departmental functions and the marked contribution he has made, bears testimony that behind him is a very supportive, hard working, professional team. The visibility of the MEC at the scenes of accidents, visiting road accident victims, bereaved families and communities due to road accidents is an indication that he is a man of the people.

The following notable successes were accomplished through the support of the Office of the MEC:

- Presidential Izimbizo held throughout the Province
- Freedom Park celebrations

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- Road Safety Prayer meetings launched in Durban and held in all KwaZulu-Natal regions
- The presentation of the third and final report of the Judicial Commission of Enquiry into Taxi Violence and related matters in KwaZulu-Natal, led by Judge Alexander to Cabinet.
- The tabling of the Green Paper on Freight Policy to the Legislature for discussion.

The Office of the MEC continually lends a supportive role to the MEC so as to meet the demands of a full diary, media liaison, research and public consultations in all its forms.

The Ministry had to provide its support to the MEC, operating within a Legislative framework, more importantly the Public Finance Management Act, that is briefly highlighted in the section below.