



Igalelo

July/August 2007

Official Newsletter of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport

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Transport Department achieving gender equity in senior positions

see story on page 3



Above: Transport's Nonkululeko Mbatha ushering in MEC Cele and Abaqulusi Mayor George Dlamini to a community hall to attend a memorial service as a result of road carnage in Vryheid recently.

Newly-appointed Media Liaison & Public Relations Manager Nonkululeko Mbatha is one of the over hundred women who have been promoted to management positions by KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Bheki Cele's Transport Department. Igalelo pays tribute to these dynamic women! They epitomise the government's vision of gender equity.



More bridges for rural people

see page 2



Rail promotes safety

see page 6



'Will the dead open the eyes of the living?'

see page 7

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Integrated planning to fight crime and alleviate poverty

Government is moving closer to implementing more programmes that will help alleviate poverty, create jobs and remove conditions that make crime possible.

The new Justice and Crime Prevention System (JCPS) was launched at the Pietermaritzburg Show Grounds recently in a function that was packed with community members and hosted by KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Bheki Cele.

Cele was supported by National Minister for Safety and Security, Charles Nqakula, KZN Premier Dr. S'bu Ndebele, Chairperson of KZN Community Safety Portfolio committee, Mayors for Umsunduzi District municipalities and uMgungundlovu District respectively, councilors Zanele Hlatswayo, and Bongzi Sthole, KZN Police Commissioner Hamilton Ngidi, CEO for Community Safety & Liaison, Yasmeen Bacus and dignitaries from other Departments.

This structure is the first of its kind in the country and it is the culmination of recommendations of the Provincial Crime Summit which elected an interim committee at a function that was staged at the Durban City Hall on the 21-22 May this year.

Speaking at the official launch, Minister of Safety and Security, Charles Nqakula said putting such



MEC Cele with National Minister Charles Nqakula at the JCPS Launch in Pietermaritzburg recently.

a structure in place should enjoy the support of the various Departments and communities.

"I am encouraging the communities to co-operate with the South African Police Service because it is our community members who commit crimes. Therefore, working in partnership with communities can result in successful investigation and arrests as communities know who commits the crimes and where the crimes are frequently committed,"

said Nqakula.

He added: "When we leave this place let us remember that each one of us is part of the building blocks of a safer South Africa."

Premier Ndebele said: "In line with resolutions taken at the crime summit, the KZN JCPS cluster will develop a provincial programme of action. This programme will address disturbing crimes while strengthening relations with businesses and communities."

The premier pointed out: "We

seek to inculcate in the consciousness of our people a new view of crime i.e. that it is dastardly, shameful and against the values of democracy. We are creating a new cadre of activists in the war against crime and criminality in order to move towards the development of a secure future in all our people. Criminality is out of fashion."

Provincial responsibilities, according to Ndebele, include initiating and coordinating social crime prevention programmes; mobilizing resources for social crime prevention programmes; coordinating a range of provincial activities to achieve more effective crime prevention; evaluating and supporting the social crime prevention programmes at local government level; implementing and taking joint responsibilities for social crime prevention; establishing crime prevention programmes in areas where local government is poorly resourced or

lacks capacity and the establishing of public and private partnerships to support crime prevention.

Fear of crimes (in proportion to the actual increase in crimes), unsustainable community participation in anti-crime activities as well as fractured responses by government agencies and departments, have all contributed to the challenges involved in eradicating crime from the province and the country as a whole. The stolen goods market is a challenge that is currently being intensely investigated.

The Volunteer Social Crime Prevention Programme (VSCPP) is a programme that focuses on tackling these challenges with the help of the public. A budget of R20 million has been allocated for the betterment of this project which has already had 1000 volunteers who will be employed and work jointly with the South African Police Services (SAPS) as Police Reserve. The project is part of the Department of the KZN Community Safety and Liaison in line with the governments' commitment to fight crime and usher in interventionist programmes in the interest of poverty alleviation as it is fertile ground for crime to take root.

Cele calls upon Amakhosi graduates to step up their anti-crime stance

ELATED KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Bheki Cele, presented 171 certificates to Amakhosi (traditional leaders) who participated in a one-week anti-crime leadership course designed by the University of Zululand in collaboration with the Department.

Cele said the course was aimed at preparing Amakhosi to tackle crime more competently, know how to approach a criminal and resolve criminal activity in their communities. "Life becomes better for you when you make the lives of other people better as well," he said.

"There is deep abiding joy derived from satisfying the needs of other people if one is in a position of responsibility like you and me. For example, it is good for me as MEC for Transport to see people rejoicing as they welcome new roads and bridges that improve the quality of their lives."

He warned the traditional leadership against various forms of greed which tended to assail people who are in a position of responsibility and power.

"You have jealousy, greed and extreme greed – jealousy is when you envy someone or something and greed is when you want to have it all, and extreme greed is when you can even kill in order to have it all," he said.

Cele stressed that members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) did not have a choice, but to shoot to kill if confronting armed and organized criminals that take up banks, ATMs and vehicle heists.

"You only smile when someone has a camera in their hands, but if they are carrying guns, what you do is shoot straight in the head. A police doesn't have to die with a gun in his or her hands - they must use them to defend themselves, children and society in general. We don't train

the police for graves - the bottom line is that criminals will have to stop killing the police."

Cele outlined the various forms of crime, including social crimes like fathers abusing their children sexually, people buying stolen goods, parents hiding their delinquents and mothers enjoying rides in stolen vehicles to church or watch a religious programme on a stolen television set.

The MEC said Amakhosi were expected to be part of the new Community Safety Forums which will see justice and correctional services employees accounting to society for criminals that get released after committing serious offenses. Such a forum will also help prepare society for a criminal's re-entry into society after serving time.

Amakhosi are expected to work closely with and monitor the conduct of officers employed in local police stations and the people they lead in dealing with crime, including rapists. Amakhosi are also seen as leading figures in the fight against conditions that make it easy for crime to find fertile ground or take root e.g. poverty, joblessness and underdevelopment.

The government of the day has the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) as well as the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) to address such challenges in a holistic fashion. Leaders have a responsibility to work with their people to interpret and apply these programmes in their respective communities in collaboration with local,

provincial and national government structures.

Cele's 2007 budget speech for the Department of Community Safety & Liaison focused on finding and using African solutions in the fight against crime. Cele is therefore putting his Department's money where his mouth is by teaming-up with the University of Zululand in empowering traditional leaders to understand how to handle dysfunctional elements in their respective communities.

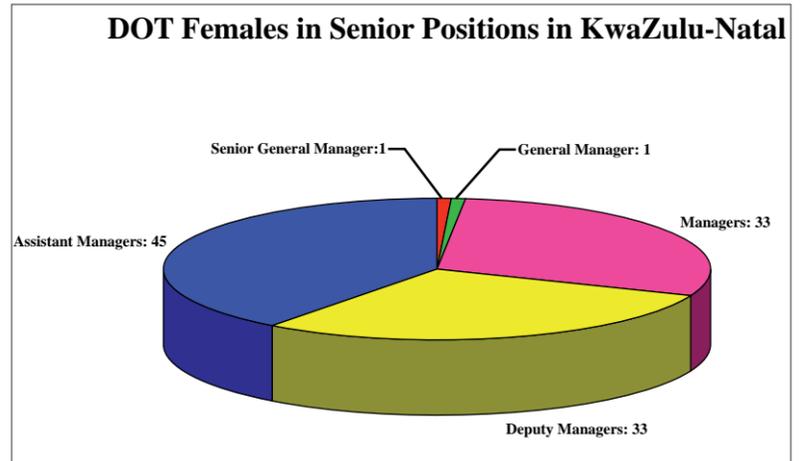
The course has been hailed as the beginning of greater things to come as the University of Zululand continues to carry out its commitment to provide relevant and practical knowledge that impact on communities in a meaningful manner.



MEC Cele and University of Zululand principal Rachel Gumbi congratulate Inkosi Impiyezintombi Mzimela.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Government policy requires that fifty percent of senior positions be occupied by women...



Top right: A graph showing women in Management positions at the Department of Transport. **1.** Newly-appointed General Manager: Strategic Planning, Glen Xaba. **2.** Corporate Services Manager Kamintha Gounder with Motor Transport Services (MTS) Manager Sue Grobellaar. **3.** Newly-appointed Legal Services Manager Simanga Ngubo. **4.** Newly-appointed Media Liaison & PR Manager Nonkululeko Mbatha.

“Unfortunately, there is this lingering perception that women are prone to incompetence. To the contrary, I have found that the opposite is true. In my personal experience, for instance, my Office only has female staff members and it is highly efficient,” said MEC Cele

In an interview with KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Mr Bheki Cele, explained the policy on women emancipation in his department:

“The Department of Transport needs to move faster with gender empowerment policy because, by September last year, we had only achieved 30% of that target. Even so, we believe it’s not only about quantity, but the quality of our employees is also very important.

“Unfortunately, there is this lingering perception that women are prone to incompetence. To the contrary, I have found the opposite to be true. In my personal experience, for instance, my office only has female staff members and they are highly efficient.

“However, I wish to acknowledge a lot still needs to be done to ensure that women are represented in such fields as engineering and this is to be achieved by offering more bursaries and internships to women to pursue careers in

this particular field, including science and mathematics,” he said.

On the department’s flagship poverty alleviation and job creation programme, Cele said he was proud of the Zimbabwe projects. “Women are a major part of the project and as a result are able to put food on the table. The Zimbabwe projects involve women who would not have been employed, they represent some of the greatest achievements of the department.”

Cele called for men not to resist broader women emancipation. “I appeal to men to be a part of its speedy realisation because empowering women has positive spin-offs for the well-being of many families.

“Recognising women are here to compliment men makes things easier, and so we need men who are open to new ideas and who will not work against women empowerment.”

Cele said government was recognising women. “You will remember in 1956 about 20 000 women marched to the

Union buildings protesting against carrying passes around their necks. Since then the new government has recognised the strength of women. August 9 has been acknowledged as Women’s Day, and it is upon us.

“However, we continue to see a lot of abuse of women and children in KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa at large. I believe this is due to the wrong mentality which exists in some men who think women are owned by them and in order for women to understand and behave they need to be punished.

“Men should stop abusing women emotionally and physically, unfortunately it always begins with a slap. Women should not allow themselves to be abused without reporting it to anyone, be it family members or the authorities. They should simply say I refuse to be abused.”



Cele relieved as new Nongoma footbridge makes schooling possible in bad weather

KZN Transport, Community Safety & Liaison MEC Bheki Cele has ticked off another mission accomplished in his mental notebook. His department has eased the pain of more rural school teachers and pupils from Nongoma who could not cross a river to learn when it rains.

Testimony of the long history of suffering and humiliation was once again cited by speakers during the official opening of Skhwebezi pedestrian bridge which took place at Ekushumayeleni area in Nongoma recently.

The Skhwebezi pedestrian bridge was opened in honor of Siphon Gonela and Ntethelelo Xulu, former learners of Madumela High School, who risked their lives to cross the overflowing bridge to deliver matric exam papers to their school. Also honored was Siphon Xaba who lost his life while trying to cross the overflowing bridge in 1991.

Accompanying MEC Cele was the department's Acting Head, Chris Hlabisa, the Mayor of Nongoma, Councilor Thembi Masondo, local Amakhosi,

Madumela municipal councilors, and community members.

The Skhwebezi pedestrian bridge is estimated to be a one in a 50 year flood bridge, which means in 50 years the bridge may overflow only once.

Mayor Masondo who is also the chairperson of the Rural Road Transport Forum said one of the RRTF's key objectives have been realised as "during bad weather schools are left empty as learners are unable to cross the overflowing bridge."

"On our way to the Skhwebezi Bridge we passed another bridge which was overflowing, keeping in mind it is winter, I cannot imagine what it is like during summer," said Cele.

From his return from KwaCeza, Cele received as many as six requests for bridges to be built. In a year, 146 pedestrian bridges have been requested in KwaZulu Natal alone. More so, a number of different roads are under construction at this time namely, route 235 from Nongoma to Hlabisa, P49 from Vryheid to Nongoma, and P487 from Nongoma to neighboring towns, including the Thombothi bridge which will cost

approximately R10 million.

Cele said just one kilometer of road paving cost more than R4 million. "A lot of money goes into road construction and our problem is a massive backlog."

Acting Departmental Head, Chris Hlabisa said 14 bridges were built in KwaZulu Natal last year and that this year alone a total of ten would be constructed.



MAIN PICTURE: Newly-launched Skhwebezi footbridge at Nongoma.

INSET: MEC Cele and dignitaries walk across the Skhwebezi pedestrian bridge when it was officially opened recently.

WOMEN'S DAY MESSAGE FROM THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE

As South Africa commemorates the role of women in our society during the month of August and beyond - it is therefore important that we intensify the struggle for the emancipation of women and completely eradicate remnants of sexism that still exist in our society.

Femicide is a serious challenge in our province that needs a collective approach by all citizens. Domestic violence impacts negatively to families, to communities and to the greater society. Let us promote family values, stop violence against women and children and provide a support base for all in our quest to defend the weak.

May we all bring hope, peace and make a difference as we celebrate women's day 2007!

Time-saving access road impacts positively on Ngwavuma community



“The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport continues to unlock the economic shackles by means of innovative programmes that seek to address rural poverty” said Cele.

From left: MEC Cele with MEC for Public Works Lydia Johnson, MEC for Local Government & Traditional Affairs Mike Mabuyakhulu and KZN Director General in the Province, Dr. Kwazi Mbanjwa during the road launch at Ngwavuma recently.

A TRIP that would normally take 25km on the Bhekamankengane road for the community of Ngwavuma to get to amenities has been reduced by 15 kms to 10 kms. Saving time and adding value to the lives of the people. The road is the fulfillment of a request by this community during a visit by Premier Sbusiso Ndebele and provincial Transport MEC Bheki Cele.

“The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport continues

to unlock the economic shackles by means of innovative programmes that seek to address rural poverty” said Cele.

In 2005 the construction of the road cost approximately R5, 4 million.

Cele said the travel time had now been reduced by approximately 0 kilometers, assisting the learners from Nyamane High School and community members and decreasing the time they spend on the road.

Former Head of the Department of Transport, Kwazi Mbanjwa said that after the visit they made

before the construction of the road, people thought they would not be back to deliver. “Before the road construction it was hard to move around we had to use a helicopter because the state of the road was so bad,” he said.

Cele said if the road network failed, the provincial economy will collapse. “The challenge for us is to remedy the road network inequalities that arose during apartheid. We need to grow our rural economies and serve our rural population.

“Our department’s innovative programmes have been well

received and highly appreciated by the leadership of this country who continue to heap accolades for the good work it does.

“To the people of Ngwavuma, I salute you and congratulate you today for your new victory - as the government of the people - we will remove all obstacles in your way to prosperity. We will be with you in all the challenges you face,” he added.

He said the government would fulfill its mandate for poverty alleviation by employing 30 Zibambele contractors on a permanent basis to maintain

the road. “The employment of Zibambele contractors will mean a number of dependants will have access to food therefore improving the lives of the people.”The fact that the road is a foundation to community development can be seen in the positive spin offs to be enjoyed by rural communities as a multi-purpose community centre as well as a creche that were opened by various provincial MECs are expected enjoy easy access to these community amenities.

MEC Cele launched one of the country’s award-winning footbridges for engineering excellence called Graceland Pedestrian Bridge at Msinga recently.





TOP: MEC Cele and bespectacled Public Transport & Freight General Manager: Adv Simo Chamane on a fact finding tour of the quality of rail service in the province.

Bottom: From left are Metro Rail manager Sisa Mthwa, MEC Cele and eThekweni mayor Obed Mlaba interacting with commuters.

Investing in rail transport can reduce road fatalities

“... a possibility government would experiment with introducing an improved train service between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.”

RAIL can be the safest form of transport compared to vehicles, including trucks, buses and taxis.

This was said by KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Bheki Cele at a Metrorail Stakeholders Dinner held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Durban recently.

“Vehicles are proving to be a health hazard because of the carnage on the province’s roads. They also emit smoke that is not only harmful to human beings, but also to the ozone layer as the world faces a new challenge of too much heat as a result of increased direct exposure to the sun. Bicycles and trains are healthier – besides, traffic is time-consuming, boring and it hinders economic growth as employees come to work late due to congestion and delays on the road.

“Last year alone, 30 000 more vehicle units were introduced onto our road network as a result of our favorable economy,” he said.

“Trucks are killing our roads – it now costs R4,2 million to make just one kilometer of tarred road. We are spending millions repairing potholes and paying legal fees to defend the department against claims made by complainants as a result of accidents caused by damaged roads.”

Cele said there was a need to revamp the train service as a whole such that issues of safety and choice of where a passenger can be in a train in accordance with what they can afford to pay were addressed.

He said there was a possibility government would experiment with introducing an improved train service between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

“In the train you meet people, you can read a newspaper and others pray and of course others do smoke dagga,” he joked.

He warned that the country still had a long way to go before it could reach a state of having a public transport as it still had a commuter transport. He explained the difference between the commuter and public transport stages. He said the latter was characterised by a society that is attracted and supportive of the mode used to transport people on account of the mode’s convenience, efficiency, punctuality, reliability and affordability.

Presently, many people in this country prefer owning their own cars rather than be in a train, bus or taxi and in the developed world it is the opposite.

“The call is for trains to accommodate us, give us the choice of safety. Safety of commuters will have to be another top priority. In short we have a long way to go, to build public transport. Transport pushes the economy far beyond 6%. We are working towards that but we are not yet there. Both Spoornet and Metrorail will have to improve their service and maintain it. We also have to improve infrastructure for trains,” said Cele.

The event was attended by Deputy Mayor of eThekweni, Logie Naidoo, CEO of Metrorail, Lucky Montana and Metrorail-Regional Manager, Sisa Mntwa and other relevant stakeholders.

The KZ N Department of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison in conjunction with Metrorail are working towards civilising the rail mode of transport through continued efforts to increase safety on trains by establishing Railway Police Contact Points and 150 police of the targeted total of 400 around the country have been employed.

Metro rail has developed an On Track Commuter Newspaper named KWANA, not only that, metro rail together with MTN has established an SMS system called Khuluma Nathi where commuters can SMS their comments or complaints on the following number 083 123 1100.

EThekweni’s Deputy Mayor Naidoo said: “Trains will play a vital and critical role towards 2010 and beyond. Motor vehicles release a lot of carbon dioxide and that causes global warming, emphasis will be made on public mode of transport to reduce deadly environmental issues and rail will make it possible.”

Driver of the year regional finals

The Department hosted the Regional Driver of the Year Competitions around the Province recently. Pictured left is an articulated truck driver going through a rigorous testing process as officials do evaluations. The competitions are aimed at promoting safety on the road.

Promoting Taxi Safety...

MEC Cele and Acting HOD Chris Hlabisa awarded Durban taxi owners a soccer jersey during a taxi owners soccer tournament which was held at King Zwelithini Stadium in uMlazi recently after playing against Pietermaritzburg owners. The games are aimed at promoting a healthy working environment in the industry.



'When will the dead open the eyes of the living?'



Picture 1:
Acting HOD Chris Hlabisa inspects the bus accident scene in Port Shepstone recently.



Picture 2:
The tyre of the bus that killed innocent people is a typical example of poor vehicle maintenance at the expense of valuable human life. The Department will re-launch Operation Thath'Iskorokoro to deal with such costly and unacceptable negligence.



Picture 3:
A row of coffins with breadwinners comprising mainly women who are mothers of families. They were amongst the 10 people that were killed in the bus accident recently.

Valuable human life, property and time are wasted on our roads due to negligence caused by human error, including poor vehicle maintenance and bad driving. Road safety education and law enforcement are some of government's direct intervention methods to quell road crashes. But occurrences like these where scores of people die in one incident are still carrying on. At the end of the day, the responsibility to be safe on the road lies with the individual. **The Department says: 'One death is one too many!' Asiphephe! Let us be safe!**

Picture 4:
MEC Cele consoles a lucky survivor of the bus accident that claimed the lives of ten innocent people.

Picture 5:
Acting HOD Hlabisa and Provincial Parliament's Chair of Chairs Rev. Sam Mthethwa hear the story of the bus crash survivor.

Drunken drivers targeted at Newcastle & Estcourt



ABOVE:
RTI officer at Newcastle test the breath of a drunken female driver before arresting her. Offenders do go to prison, get fined and appear in court. Soon government will disqualify repeat offenders and they will have to apply for a new driver's license.

RIGHT:
RTI Officer at Estcourt in the process of arresting a drunken male driver.

Transport empowering the youth with job skills



One of the graduates, 21-year old Precious Dlamini said: "I feel very inspired. It feels good to achieve something that I have wanted to achieve for so long."

Training project facilitator Daisy Mncwango with DOT Acting General Manager: Implementation Simphiwe Nkosi presenting a certificate to one of the programme participants.

The KZN-Department of Transport (DOT), in conjunction with the KZN Department of Labor, have empowered scores of youngsters with road construction skills that are already making them employable.

At least 149 young people graduated at Newlands East Community Hall, recently. The event marked the end to the practical skills enhancement courses that were based at the Viaduct Training Centre which is sponsored by the Department.

The courses are part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) that was launched by President Thabo Mbeki at the 2003 Growth and Development Summit.

Addressing graduates, Acting General Manager: Implementa-

tion, Simphiwe Nkosi said:

"This programme is aimed at bridging the gap between, growing economy that places an ever-increasing demand on resources, and on the other hand, a massive pool of unemployed people with minimal skills or work experience.

We in the DOT are supporting the aims and objectives of the EPWP."

Nkosi pointed out: "Our experience on numerous projects around the province, particularly on the P577 project in which graduates were groomed, is that there is an absence of people who have the skills to do the jobs."

Hence, graduates of the courses offered at this centre are recognized by the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) accreditation.

Programme Director, Thembi

Mkhize along with Nonhlanhla Khanyezi, told graduates that the four courses offered were split among 149 students. The courses included Scaffolding (15 days), Carpentry (45 days), Concrete Re-enforcing (17 days) and Shutter-hand (15 days).

The modules were offered on a monthly basis and consists of three groups that are split under the supervision of three instructors; Siphon Gerald Msimango, Victor William Shangasi and Robert Mphakanyiswa Sikhosana. The groups were run simultaneously and students were graded according to their performance in several tasks that we course requirements.

Counselor Preeth Ramchuran was grateful that the DOT brought such a programme to his Newlands East community.

He said the multi-million rand

project "is not only an investment in a road but also an investment in people, in human resources."

One of the graduates, 21-year old Precious Dlamini said: "I feel very inspired. It feels good to achieve something that I have wanted to achieve for so long."

She believes that this programme has proved to be a stepping-stone "to achieving more certificates in civil engineering and making it easy for me to achieve these in a technikon."

Meantime, the Department of Transport in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, will be introducing a National Youth Service (NYS) that will focus on training youths between the ages of 18 and 35. The programme will be based on tutoring the youth in life skills, technical training, entrepreneurship and business skills.

ABOUT IGALELO

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