



# Igalelo

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Official Newsletter of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport



# Zuma praises Transport Department for good works



INSERT: FROM LEFT: ANC President Jacob Zuma, KZN DOT MEC Bheki Cele & HOD Chris Hlabisa discuss the work which will be done by the department in Inkandla. Main Picture: The Uthukela River, where the Uthulwane Bridge will be built.



Cele pledges to build a new house for Ulundi woman

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Don't hide criminals in your homes, warns MEC Cele

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# Transport projects opening doors to civil engineering opportunities for Ulundi



The plaque commemorating the opening of Thombothi Bridge.

The construction of a bridge and link road over the Black Mfolozi River for the Xasane and Esizinda communities in the Mahlabathini district of KwaZulu-Natal has had a major impact on a large community on both sides of the river.

This KZN Transport Department initiative has also been hailed as one of the most successful community-based projects in the province in terms of providing job opportunities for local people, in-service training skills training, career guidance at high schools and facilitating a soccer tournament.

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Cele said: "This project was mentioned in the introduction of the 2008 budget speech for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport. It was carried out within the allocated budget and was completed for use by the communities within the contract period."

There is one primary school



ABOVE: National Department of Transport Minister Jeff Radebe with KZN MEC Bheki Cele hand over computers to local schools. RIGHT: Radebe donated bicycles to school children.



and one high school nearby the project site and both schools are located in the Xasane community to the west of the river. Children from the age of six years of age were forced to cross the river twice a day in order to attend classes and to write exams. This put their lives in jeopardy and resulted in frequent school absenteeism, particularly during the rainy summer months.

ThankstoMECCele'semphasis on community empowerment,

civil engineering was promoted to over 1 200 scholars at all 9 high schools in the two local tribal authorities. The emphasis to Grade 9 and 10 learners was to consider Mathematics and Physical Science as matric subjects.

The emphasis for the Grade 11 and 12 learners was to consider Civil Engineering as a career. The scholars in Grade 11 and 12 were also invited to site visits.



MEC Cele with Gogo Thembeni Buthelezi (left) in Ulundi during his regular home visit to the families who lost their loved ones as a result of road carnage

## Cele to build new house for Ulundi road carnage victim

life during one of his visits to families who have been affected by road accidents.

Most Departmental events commence with the MEC visiting those people who have been affected by road accidents. This is done in order to see how they are coping after losing loved ones, who were often bread winners of the household, or living with disabilities they have suffered through road carnage. During these visits, people get the opportunity to tell the department how their lives have changed, unfortunately for the worse.

Thembeni Buthelezi (70) lost her son in a road accident leaving her to care for his two children as well as eight other children left by her daughters. The family lives in a deteriorating house.

Upon seeing the condition that the Buthelezi family was living under, Cele and his Head of Department, Chris Hlabisa pledged to build a four room house for them, and they committed to hand over the keys before the April general elections.

"Gogo Buthelezi will be coming from a new house when she goes to the voting station. At the moment, this is no home for young children to be living in," said Cele.

Hlabisa also emphasised that the situation in the Buthelezi family was a burden to Gogo Buthelezi, and that he will ensure that their living conditions improve through their having a decent house to live in.

Five families gathered during this visit to share their hardships they encounter since the death of

their loved ones, most of whom were the sole providers for their respective families. The DOT authorities met the Buthelezi, Mbatha, Mdluli and two Radebe families.

The Department donated food hampers to curb the hunger for a few days.

The DOT principals undertook these visits while on their way to a sod turning ceremony for Nyelele Bridge which will cost about R7 million. The bridge will help the people of Mabedlana, especially school children to get to school without venturing through dangerous terrain.

The MEC also donated 10 computers to three schools each, Indlovana High, Idikane High and Amabedlane Primary School.

The KZN MEC it upon himself to rebuild a house for an elderly woman in Mabedlane, Ulundi. Cele and Liaison, Bheki Cele has taken

# Cele renames new Umsinga bridge after exemplary Inkosi Mchunu



**ABOVE:**From left:DOT HOD Chris Hlabisa, Mayor Petros Ngu-bane, MEC Bheki Cele, Inkosi Mchunu & MEC for Health Neliswa Nkonyeni open the Inkosi Smakade Mchunu Bridge.**RIGHT:** MEC Cele, Nkoyeni & Nkosi Mchunu giving away 20 computers to two schools.

In recognition of a traditional leader's unwavering support this respected man has demonstrated over the years towards the Department, KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Bheki Cele has re-named one of the bridges in the area after Inkosi Smakade Mchunu from Umsinga.

MEC Cele says that Inkosi Mchunu has set an example of how Amakhosi should cooperate with government to ensure that their people acquire basic services. At all Departmental events he has attended, Inkosi Mchunu has reiterated that people must learn to differentiate between work done by government and work done by a political party.

During the past five years under the current government, the community of Umsinga has seen roads and bridges where previously no one would have imagined they could ever be constructed.

Addressing more than ten

thousand people who gathered to witness the official opening of the Mbalane vehicle bridge and KwaLeje pedestrian bridge, Cele said: "From now on the Mbalane bridge is to be called the Inkosi Smakade Mchunu Bridge".

The vehicle bridge was constructed at a cost of R10,5 million and the pedestrian bridge cost about R4,1 million to build. Both bridges, which are 'life savers' for the community where some residents have lost their lives whilst crossing the river to get to work or school, are built over the Mooi River.

During construction, the concrete work for the deck, approaches, pier protection work and earthworks for the approaches, was done by contractors who are registered on the Department's Vukuzakhe Database. A number of local people were employed during the construction of these bridges.

This event was also graced by the MEC for Health Neliswa Nkonyeni

who committed her Department to providing ten new clinics in the area.

The KZN Department of Transport has invested more than R258 million in Umzinyathi District to deal with the challenges of road infrastructure construction and maintenance.

Substantial sums of money have been injected by MEC Cele's Department into projects such as Dicky Bridge, Sphongweni Road, Nxamalala Road, Nyonini Road,

**MEC Cele, Nkoyeni & HOD of Transport Chris Hlabisa open KwaLeje Pedestrian Bridge.**



# Zuma praises Transport Department for good works



MEC Bheki Cele & ANC President Jacob Zuma during a family visit. **RIGHT:** Zuma, Cele & Nkosi Magwaza turn the sod where the Tulwane Bridge will be built.

**T**he ANC President Jacob Zuma expressed his gratitude to the KZN Department of Transport for epitomizing excellence of his ruling party's government.

Zuma said it was clear for all to see that the Department had

always been dedicated to bringing development to rural areas.

He promised to continue striving to ensure that the government paid attention to people in rural areas. "We need brave people in the government, people like Ndosini (MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison)," he said.

Zuma was speaking during the

recent sod turning ceremony for the Uthulwane Vehicle Bridge and the access road to be constructed in Inkandla, his home town. The construction of the bridge over the Uthukela River will cost R30 million and the 11 km access road will be constructed at the tune of R7,5 million.

It was Zuma himself who approached the Department to do something for the people of Inkandla who always had difficulty when trying to cross the river.

He said that the people from the rural areas are often forgotten and development initiatives are enjoyed by those in the urban areas.

"I have never been happier than when we turned the sod, I felt like a little boy," Zuma told an estimated 10 000 crowd.

Highlighting the severity of the situation in the rural areas of KZN, MEC Cele said that there are 426 bridges that still need to be built in KZN.

Cele said: "Life comes to a stand-still for some people when there is no bridge available. We have done a lot, yet more still needs to be done in KZN."

He also emphasized the need to have 'izimbizo' (gatherings) with the mayors in all parts of KZN to discuss issues; particularly that some mayors are taking undue credit for the development programmes brought about by the KZN Department of Transport.

He said that his Department has 1 250 Zibambe members under the Inkandla Rural Road Transport Forum (RRTF). The Department is using money equivalent to the cost of paying three road maintenance contractors per month to help 37 000 to 40 000 Zibambe families with a total of R203 million yearly budget in the province.

The Zibambe savings clubs have saved a total of R10,5 million, of which R539 000 is the amount that the Inkandla clubs alone have saved, he said.

Cele also discouraged the employment of people based on their political affiliations, saying that "poverty is not politically biased".



Mayor Petros Ngubane, Bhekukwenza Ntanzu, MEC Bheki Cele, Zakhele Nkosi, Cllr Dudu Zondi & HOD Chris Hlabisa.

**T**he KZN Department of Transport has assured communities that major steps are being taken to ensure the policy of local labour employment is implemented during construction of road infrastructure.

The policy says that the cost of any project must be of economic

benefit to the communities that the project will serve. Contractors are compelled to source all materials from the local suppliers and employ all labour from the nearby communities. Only skills that are not available in the area can be sourced from elsewhere.

While the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bhekini Cele has always emphasised

this policy, he says that some people are reporting back to him that contractors are bringing their own people to work on projects, and that locals are not given job opportunities.

He says other major steps are also being taken to ensure that people get job opportunities irrespective of which political party they belong to.

## Providing jobs for local people remains top priority for government

This came up during the sod turning ceremony to mark the beginning of the construction of the Ntembisweni local road near Greytown recently.

The 20 km gravel road will provide linkage between the areas of Entembisweni, Mdlelanto, Greytown and Seven Oakes. The total cost of the project is estimated at R30 million.

Vukuzakhe Contractors will be utilised for the construction of the road and about 40 locals will be provided with job opportunities. Approximately 38 locals will be recruited to the Zibambe road maintenance poverty alleviation programme in the area.

There are five schools, namely, Entembisweni Primary School, Candabuthule High School, Ntandoyethu Lower Primary School, Mgaga Primary School,

Ndubazi Primary School) and one clinic called Entembisweni, that will benefit through the construction of this local road.

Meanwhile, the Department has officially opened P549 at Matimatolo, Greytown. This road is being continually upgraded to blacktop surface for every consecutive financial year. This financial year (2008/2009), eight km have been completed at the cost of R30 million. The total length of the road is 50 km and it is to be completed by the year 2011. The total amount that will be invested is R177,5 million.

This road will serve the community residing at Matimatolo as well as four primary schools with approximately 250 learners; three high schools with approximately 600 pupils; over 4 000 households and over 20 000 residents.

## 2008 South Coast flood damage repair work has begun



**MEC Cele, Ugu Mayor Sthembiso Cele, Sazi Ndwalane (Chairperson for Amakhosi in Ugu District), and Inkosi Patrick Zungu take time to pass their condolences and hand over food parcels to families who lost their loved ones due to road accidents.**

The government has invested R617 million for repairing the provincial road infrastructure following last year's heavy rains that damaged many areas in KwaZulu-Natal, especially the South Coast. The year 2008 saw many areas in KwaZulu Natal, especially in the South Coast, being damaged by heavy rains that lasted for over two days, and affected areas stretching

from eZingolweni to uMgababa.

The resultant flooding from the 500mm of rainfall caused many rural areas to become isolated from places of importance and necessity, namely schools, hospitals and

shops.

Speaking during a visit to the coastal area, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bheki Cele said: "The department has set two priorities for itself, namely, to give priority to the repairing of roads, particularly in rural areas as well as maximizing opportunities for contractor development and local employment."

Cele pointed out: "An amount of R617 million has been allocated. But it is very unfortunate that the infrastructural damage caused by the floods is estimated at R1, 1 billion throughout the Ugu District". Approximately 27 bridges and causeways suffered serious structural damage. The Department is currently determining new designs for these and other structures. Amongst others, projects that are set to benefit greatly from the repairs are the multi-million rand P68 worth

between R250 to R300 million, P73's 75 kilometers constructed at R900 million, P254 at the tune of R35 million and P58 which cost R18 million.

As part of his road safety awareness campaign, Cele began his visit by meeting families who lost their loved ones in a road accident last year. The accident occurred on the P732 where seven people died. It is believed that the cause of the accident was speeding. The 19 year old driver was also not in possession of a driver's license.

The six affected families were gathered at a near-by school where Cele expressed his heart-felt condolences to them and informed the families that they would be assisted by social workers if the need arose. Food parcels were distributed amongst the bereaved families as a symbolic gesture of sympathy for losing breadwinners.



**MEC Meshack Hadebe and MEC Bheki Cele hand over a food parcel to one of the many children identified as being needy.**

In addition to its legislative mandate to manage the transportation system in the province, which provides local job opportunities during construction, the KZN Department of Transport has other social responsibility initiatives. During the past five years, the Department has embraced several community outreach initiatives, which included amongst others

## DOT takes social responsibility seriously

career guidance at high schools and in-service skills training opportunities.

The Department is also working to ensure that the socio-economic rights of children as enshrined in our Constitution, including the right to education, care and support become a reality and a matter of top priority in the province.

It is for that reason that the Department's political head, MEC Bheki Cele has handed over many computers to rural schools where previously learners had to travel long distances to big cities just to access and learn how to use computers.

In another move to support budding financially challenged businesswomen in Ulundi, Cele has

handed over 12 sewing machines to two local sewing clubs, namely the Zizamele and Bhekinjabulo sewing clubs.

The sewing machines will be accompanied by a batch of material to start the work. The chairperson of the Zizamele sewing club, Khonjisiwe Ntambo told *Igalelo* that life is very difficult for them as women but sewing enables them to make ends meet.

"We sew curtains and garments, but receiving more machines makes life easier, more work can be done in a shorter space of time and the fact that these machines are advanced means the end product will be of top quality," said Ntambo.

"Giving people skills is vital

so they are able to do things for themselves enabling them to put food on the table," explained Cele at the handover.

During his visit to the area, Cele also donated soccer kits to four local soccer clubs that included soccer uniforms and boots. Nzamo Zulu was overjoyed to know that his soccer club will not have to worry about any soccer kits.

Emabendlana Primary School was presented with uniforms for those children who were identified as most needy. The uniform included shirts, ties, skirts and school shoes. Education is the key to every child's future and the current government is committed to eliminate all barriers that limit a child from reaching to their full potential.



**MEC Bheki Cele with National Transport Minister Mr Jeff Hadebe in KwaMashu at Isibonelo High during the schools' 50 years anniversary.**

## KwaMashu school gets support from DOT political heads

To that effect, the KZN Department of Transport has embarked on a campaign to identify scholars who need financial assistance to study engineering.

This came up when MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bheki Cele was joined by the National Transport Minister Jeff Radebe and Deputy State President Baleka Mbete to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Isibonelo High School KwaMashu recently.

Radebe is a former student of Isibonelo High School while Mbete was once employed as a teacher there. The school is known for having produced successful and famous figures, businessmen, international soccer

stars and members of parliament.

Founded 50 years ago, Isibonelo High School never crumbled even though it was faced by many odds. Instead through the hard work of dedicated staff and learners it rose up and seized victory against the challenges it faced.

It is through that powerful history that leaders such as Radebe stood proudly before present day Isibonelo scholars as a role model. Dignitaries had the opportunity to listen to choral music and poetry performed by scholars in celebration of the anniversary.

"It doesn't matter if you go to an expensive multi-racial school or not, what matters is the knowledge you acquire and what

you make of it," said a grade 12 Nomthandazo Zulu in her powerful poetry rendition.

In introducing the National Transport Minister, MEC Cele promised that the Transport Department would donate school uniforms to needy scholars.

Radebe said: "Education is about people reaching their full potential and taking charge of their lives. I am confident in the future of our South African youth because this country takes care of its youth. A country on the other hand, that doesn't take care of its youth forfeits its own future. I urge you to work hard so as to achieve your full potential and dreams. Please protect yourselves from HIV/AIDS, be faithful to your partners, abstain and condomise."

The government is working hard to ensure that the socio-economic rights of children as enshrined in our constitution, including the right to education, health, care and support, become a reality and a matter of top priority.



# Don't hide criminals in your homes, warns MEC Cele



Members of the Dumbe community line up to make thier pleas to the MEC's.

It is unfortunate that some of our people are not aware that they contribute to criminal activities that we see in our area.

Criminals live with us in the community. Some criminal activities take place in shebeens, many of which are not legal and those which are legal do illegal things like having 15-year-olds

drinking.

This was a concern raised by the KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bheki Cele during the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security

Cluster (JCPS) workshop held at Ezakheni in Ladysmith recently.

The main aim of the workshop was to bring the law closer to the people so they have a better understanding of crime prevention and how it relates to

the Criminal Justice System.

MEC Cele said: "It is important that we do not support criminals just because they are our sons, we live with them. Police have a duty to arrest and keep the community safe and the Criminal Act allows for police to use necessary force to protect the community. However, police shouldn't go around shooting people."

Cele explained: "In an effort to curb criminal activities, a volunteer programme has been developed and to date 164 volunteers patrol their home areas. The main duties of the volunteers are to create safer communities and also discourage crime by working closely with police."

The workshop also featured Siyabonisana project, which is in partnership with South African Women's Lawyers Association (SAWLA). The partnership comprises a series of educational messages in the media on matters of domestic violence, bail and sexual harassment.

Cele said he was very concerned about the number of young women who are arrested on the road for drinking and driving. "I have been to many roadblocks in the province and I have seen young professional ladies driving while under the influence of alcohol. If we continue like this we will end up having a drunken nation," he warned.

## Police officers urged to do their job properly



MEC for Community Safety and Liason Bheki Cele with HOD Yasime Bacus.

The KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bheki Cele has once again lashed out at police officers who want to negotiate rape victims instead of arresting the suspects.

He said that he always receives reports that some police officers are questioning women on what they were wearing while they were raped. "It is not the job of the police to determine whether a girl was wearing a short skirt then she deserved to be raped. Police are not fashion



designers, they are police and they must collect evidence and arrest the culprit. Do not negotiate or judge, we have trained judges and courts to do that," he said.

Cele was speaking in Paul Pietersberg as he joined forces with MEC for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs Mtholephi Mthimkhulu to visit the community of Dumbe following the increase of cases of stock theft and other criminal activities.

Paulpietersburg has seen an increase in rape and child molestation and because of the poverty women

and children are reluctant to report these cases because it's usually the bread winner who is the culprit. "The police in the area therefore have a role to play in these rape charges and we plead with them to do their jobs properly," said Cele.

He also condemned the acts vigilantes, saying that the law in this country states that you are innocent until found guilty by the court of law, not anybody else. A vigilante group who call themselves Isikebhe has taken it upon themselves to find these criminals, their actions have led to houses of suspects being burnt to the ground.

"This is not a banana republic, this is a governed country with laws and constitution. Some of these people going out to recover those stolen cows but they do not return them to their owners.

"Stealing livestock is a very serious offence and should be considered as a bank robbery. Livestock is the only means for many people to put food on the table

and for that to be stolen means that a lot of people's bread and butter, their income and savings have been taken away," said Cele.

He appealed to members of the community to work together with police and ensure that more is done to prevent crime in the area.

The Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs launched several new projects during the event, the planting of beans for communities. The community of Bhadeni received 150 hectares to plant beans. This will feed 700 people and it cost the Department R1,7 million.

The community of Dlamini received 200 hectares of beans at the cost of R1,8 million, feeding 840 people. The Department has also built over 100 dips in Zululand that can be used by the community for free. "This is all part of the governments plans to eradicate poverty by half in 2014," said Mthimkhulu.

# Message for Human Rights Month



**Mr. B.H. Cele**  
MEC: Transport, Community Safety and Liaison

A government can only claim its legitimacy if its existence is based on the will of the people and that government respects the rights of the people. It is for this very reason that the KZN Department of Transport has established programmes in line with human rights.

These programmes are indeed a benchmark against which we can judge the progress we make in the empowerment of our people, especially the previously disadvantaged.

The KZN Department of Transport has a legislative mandate to manage the transportation system in KwaZulu-Natal. This includes amongst others, the construction of pedestrian bridges and access roads.

This road infrastructure ensures that the socio-economic rights of our people as enshrined in our Constitution, including the right to education, health, care and support become a reality and a matter of top priority.

We know that as a country, our focus is on the transport system for 2010. But as the

Department of Transport we want to ensure that while our focus is on 2010 and beyond, we continue to provide transport infrastructure to our rural communities who

may not be affected directly by 2010 projects.

Therefore we dedicated our budget to areas such as Nongoma, Mahlabathini and Umsinga where people still travel kilometers on foot to the nearest clinic, hospital, school, pension payout etc. We say as government we cannot allow a situation where teachers and learners have to undress everyday in order to cross rivers to school. They have a right to dignity.

We do not wish to see what a national television showed in the summer of 2004 - the plight of school learners from Nomzimane High School having to cross an overflowing Mfolozi river to get to school every day.

The construction of access roads is also providing our mothers with opportunities to put food on the table through Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme. In South Africa it is a human right to go to bed with something in your stomach.

We have also dedicated our budget to safety on our roads. Our country cannot afford to continue to lose many lives and experience serious injuries every day. We have visited many families in this province who are victims of road crashes. We have seen how difficult life is for people who lost their bread winners as a result of road carnage.

Road crashes are depriving our children of their rights to have parents. I therefore make a clarion call to all road users to work together so that we can do more to defend the weak in our society.

As we approach election date, I appeal to all of us who have registered to go and exercise the right we are given by our Constitution-the right to vote.

**Mr. B.H. Cele**  
MEC: Transport, Community Safety and Liaison

# Gifts for Ngwavuma local schools and communities



**High School learners from Ngwavuma have reaped the fruits of their forefathers' freedom struggle as they received Computers as an investment to towards thier future and Bicycles from the MEC for Transport Mr. Bhekisi Cele.**

The MEC for Transport Community Safety and Liaison has decided to bless two high schools with bicycles and computers. The bicycles are for the students who travel long distances to school.

"I am handing over ten computers to Sbamu High school and five to Mtshelkwana High. However, I pledge to add another five computers to Mtshelkwana, and for the students who travel long distances we will be providing bicycles in an effort to invest in the future of these high school children," said Cele.

Cele's generosity did not stop there; he also gave six other high schools bicycles for their learners

namely, Namaneni, Ndumo, Zandlazethu, Lubhuko Gamula and Mthanti High schools.

The handover took place when he visited Ngwavuma and surrounds in conjunction with four other provincial government departments that Cele invited to join him in an effort to bring development to the area. Ngwavuma and surrounds are located just outside the Swaziland border.

In an effort to ease the burdens of community members in the area, which is located just outside of the Swaziland border, each department provided development aids.

"We are here as government with the aim of helping the people in the area; we want to offer a helping

hand, especially since the people in this area have to travel long distances to town and often they do not have the money to do so," said Cele in his key address.

The invited department's included the Department of Health lead by their MEC Peggy Nkonyeni, who opened a health centre to service the community, "I am glad to hand over the keys of Manyiseni Clinic, which cost R11.7 million, for the people to use freely" said MEC Nkonyeni.

MEC for Agriculture, Mr Mtholephi Mkhulu also attended in order to encourage the establishment of community gardens and to give starter packs of seedlings to the communities for their gardens.

MEC Wezile Thusi for the Department of Arts and Culture encouraged the formation of craft groups. She spoke of the area's potential for international tourism; this is due to the fact that you can see three countries from a certain point and she is confident that international tourists would be visiting the area.

The MEC for Economic Development Meshack Hadebe was unable to attend the event due to other commitments but asked MEC Cele to hand over the food parcels to poverty-stricken families in the area on his behalf. The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) was also there to arrange Identity Documents and birth certificates for community members who required them.

### ABOUT IGALELO

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