



## Transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal



**Above:**  
Mr Thembinkosi Willies Mchunu (main picture), is the newly-appointed MEC for KwaZulu-Natal Transport, Community Safety and Liaison. Mchunu has replaced Mr Bheki Cele (insert) who is now the South African Police Services (SAPS) National Commissioner.

### MEC Mchunu's profile:

- MEC- Local Government and Traditional Affairs
- Member of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature Speaker of KZN Legislature
- Deputy Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature
- Member of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Committee (ANC) and Provincial Working Committee of the ANC (1994 to date)
- KwaZulu-Natal ANC Deputy Chairperson
- KwaZulu-Natal Chairperson SACP
- Member of the Central Executive Committee, SACP
- Regional Convener and first Chairperson of the Northern Natal Region of the ANC
- Trade Unionist with COSATU Affiliates
- SANCO KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Working Committee member
- Chairperson of Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital Board
- Founder and Chairperson of Isiphephelo Trust, a benevolent initiative
- Chairperson of Cato Manor Development Association

# Zibambele continues to shine



**The Government has committed itself to fighting poverty in KwaZulu-Natal especially for women and children in rural areas. Pictured is a group of Zibambele women who are among the 40 000 members of this road maintenance poverty alleviation programme.**



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## Zibambele, the pillar of strength for the poor

The KwaZulu-Natal government's efforts is renowned for its pushing back the frontiers of poverty. Since 1994, the government has been gradually unlocking the economic shackles by means of innovative programmes that sought to address rural challenges.

The Zibambele Road Maintenance programme is one such initiative. It now boasts 40 000 members in the province, such programmes are a benchmark against which the government can judge the progress it makes in the empowerment of rural women in particular.

In South Africa the poorest of the poor are found in women-headed households. Numerous statistical studies have always validated the plight of rural women who often happen to be single parents.

Igalelo recently visited some of the Zibambele members to establish how the programme has changed their lives for the

better.

Ms. Thembisile Phungula from Greytown who is part of the Zinenhlanhla Club joined Zibambele in 2006 after her husband, who was the sole breadwinner, passed away. "It is very difficult for uneducated widows as we usually depend on our husbands to provide. However, since joining Zibambele I have been trained and empowered," says Phungula.

Ms. Thandi Shezi from Nkandla, a member of the Ukukhanya Kwesizwe Club, explains that the programme encourages them to save twenty Rand from their earnings each month.

"Through Zibambele, I have been able to raise and educate my children. I had the intention of finding ways to supplement my income and I resorted to buying seedlings and selling my harvest. We are really grateful to our government, particularly the Transport Department for this programme that has changed our lives for the better," says

Shezi.

The Zibambele programme requires 60 hours to be worked each month in maintaining a specific length of road. The programme is structured in such a way as to encourage flexible hours on road maintenance activities to allow households adequate time to deploy their labour on other activities.

Ms. Bekephi Zungu who is part of the Siyethuka Club in Greytown was left with the responsibility to raise her aunt's children when she passed away. Her late aunt was also part of the programme. "I was able to raise her children who matriculated and even went to tertiary, also giving me a chance to raise my own," explains Zungu.

Zungu has also supplemented her income through ordering and nurturing chicks, which she then sells for a profit.

"It was difficult even to do the simplest thing of thatching my house without any income. It is this Zibambele that has rescued me from my financial woes," she says.



These are some of the members of the Department's flagship poverty alleviation programme, Zibambele (dressed in red safety vests) taken while cleaning the edges of the road. In the background are some of the Managers from the Department during an inspection visit in preparation for the programme to be rolled out in all other South African provinces as mandated by the country's President Jacob Zuma.

Zibambele has been recognised as "best practice" in South Africa. The KwaZulu-Natal government has set the standards for the rest of South

Africa and President Jacob Zuma has ordered that the programme be rolled out to all provinces.



Black entrepreneurs are now controlling construction sites in line with the Department's vision of "Prosperity through Mobility." Job creation and wealth generation are some of the core priorities of the Vukuzakhe emerging contractor programme aimed at upgrading and extending the rural road network including foot and vehicle bridge construction.

Vukuzakhe is a strategic programme by the government that empowers previously marginalized South Africans to be part of the construction industry. Besides helping them to run viable businesses, the programme also creates jobs for the communities where construction is taking place. Former KZN Premier,

Dr. Sbusiso Ndebele initiated the Vukuzakhe programme during his tenure as MEC for Transport in KwaZulu-Natal. Ndebele is now National Minister of Transport.

Vukuzakhe has led to a number of successful contractors emerging in the construction industry including Mfihleni Construction, which is owned by Mr. Mandla Biyela. The programme has produced

## Vukuzakhe produces successful contractors

the likes of Thatheni Women Construction owned by Mrs. Thatheni Zondi, and Fynn Construction owned by Mr. Pollen Fynn. There is also Zwelonke Construction owned by Mr. Noah Maphumulo and Wonder Dream Projects by Mr. Linda Nyandeni, to mention but a few of the 37884 emerging contractors who are on the Department's database.

These government contractors have all become experts in the construction industry and they also contribute towards job creation and poverty alleviation in the province. It is almost hard to believe that when they attended a summit that was called by former KwaZulu-Natal Transport MEC Ndebele, they had no clue what the construction industry was all about. This soon changed through the diverse training programmes that were provided to them by the Department of Transport. Through training in administration functions such as daily costing and ways to

improve their businesses, they have been able to provide jobs to unemployed members of communities both as temporary and permanent workers respectively.

Nyandeni of Wonder Dream Projects is still exuberated by the growth of his business because he has managed to buy more equipment like the excavators, graders, compacting rollers, tip trucks and abnormal trucks which make it easier for his employees to perform their duties efficiently.

Biyela of Mfihleni Construction says he is proud of his achievement in constructing P399, a provincial road in the Pietermaritzburg region. He says it gives him great satisfaction when he goes to sleep at night knowing that he is making a huge difference in the lives of people who had nothing but now they have jobs so they are able to feed their families.

These contractors are very passionate about their work because it does not only

give them profit, but it also helps to boost the economy of the country. It is clear that Vukuzakhe members take their jobs seriously as Thatheni says: "I am happy that I have excelled in my duties in the construction of the new King Shaka Airport in La Mercy." She says Thatheni Women Construction are grateful to the South African Government for giving them an opportunity to take part in the construction of a historical airport in KwaZulu-Natal.

Thatheni is positive that if the Vukuzakhe programme could be implemented in other provinces, it will be a definite solution to poverty in the country.

The success of these programmes (Vukuzakhe and Zibambele) has led to the South African President Jacob Zuma ordering National Minister of Transport, Dr. Sbusiso Ndebele to ensure that such programmes are implemented in other provinces. This initiative has once again put KwaZulu-Natal on the map.

*'prosperity through mobility'*





**Zibambele Forelady Khonzeleni Nhlenyana relates her success story of how she was promoted from being a Zibambele contractor to a Field Support Officer. In the picture she was attending a skills development workshop.**

**M**any Zibambele contractors, who have been enabled to put food on the table due to the innovative women empowerment programme of the KZN Department of Transport, are determined to use the opportunities afforded to them to succeed in establishing their own businesses. There are many success stories resulting from the Zibambele programme, yet none so unique

## Unique Success Story: From Maintenance Worker to Field Support Officer

as that of Ms. Khonzeleni Nhlenyana of Jozini. Like many others, Nhlenyana was a member of the Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme.

She says: "I was an unemployed youth who had just finished Grade 12 and had no finances to further my studies. I then joined Zibambele and was responsible for maintaining D1834 from Makhathni Research to Mbhoza in Jozini."

As a Zibambele member she had already displayed signs of leadership because her Field Support Officer (FSO) would consult with her on operational matters.

Nhlenyana always knew that

she was destined for greater things because after joining Zibambele, she obtained her drivers licence. Her promotion came in December 2008 in the form of a position as the Field Support Officer (FSO) for the road she had previously been maintaining as a Zibambele contractor.

"I was shocked and surprised that I was selected as a FSO. I felt humbled and knew that the community had faith in me," she says.

She explains her new role as a FSO: "I work closely with Zibambele members and maintain their payroll effectively and assist the members with

their renewals, just to mention a few."

What is it that keeps her motivated? "My love of people and the need to help wherever I can. I always want to make a difference in people's lives and that of their families. Every day I set goals for myself to accomplish, and each day I need to at least have helped one person."

Where would she like to see herself in the future? With a gleam of hope in her eyes she says: "I would like to see myself advance and maybe become a Civil Technician because that has been my life-time dream."

## Siyazenzela, food for waste roll-out

**I**n a move to ensure that the government's priority of fighting poverty is realised, representatives from the North West Department of Transport and Public Works recently came to KwaZulu-Natal to learn more about the Department of Transport's poverty alleviation programmes.

The programmes include the Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme, the Vukuzakhe Emerging Contractor Programme and the Siyazenzela Domestic Waste Management Programme, which have proved so successful in KwaZulu-Natal, that the President of the Republic of South Africa Mr. Jacob Zuma has called upon provincial transport departments to implement them countrywide.

Among the North West team were representatives from the Rustenburg Local Municipality, who wish to start implementing Siyazenzela in their area. The Siyazenzela project is a community upliftment

programme that is aimed at improving waste removal services in rural and informal settlements. The benefits of the Siyazenzela project are to sustain community gardens, the prevention of health risks and environmental pollution, as well as removing the dependency syndrome.

The programme has created 310 job opportunities in Kwazulu-Natal, which has impacted positively on beneficiary households. Its implementation is facilitated as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) under the environment and culture sector. As an EPWP coordinating department, Transport ensures the Siyazenzela rollout to municipalities that eventually have to sustain the programme. Currently there are three municipalities implementing the Siyazenzela project, namely the Hibiscus Coast with 200 beneficiaries, Msunduzi with 50 beneficiaries and Ladysmith with 60 beneficiaries.

The visitors from North West



**The Siyazenzela food for waste poverty alleviation programme which is one of KZN'S innovations under the national Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP). This programme is expected to be replicated in other parts of the country. In the picture are some of the officials from North West who paid a visit to KwaZulu-Natal to learn more about the programme.**

had an opportunity of talking with the Jika Joe residents who are beneficiaries of Siyazenzela. Giving testimony about how her life has changed for the better, Jika Jo's Zibuyile Ngcobo said: "My family used to go to bed with empty stomachs but after I joined Siyazenzela I am now

able to put food on the table for my family."

This visit by the North West is not the first inter-provincial rollout in implementing the flagship programmes of the Department. There was effective cooperation between the Department of Transport

(KZN) and the National Department of Public Works that resulted in Siyazenzela being launched for the first time outside KwaZulu-Natal in the Thulamele Municipality in the Limpopo Province in October 2008.

*'prosperity through mobility'*



# DOT

## Investment: 2010 and beyond



One of the projects that is in line with the 2010 World Cup is the revamping of the road leading to King Shaka International Airport, north of Durban. The Government has invested large sums of money to benefit emerging contractors.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is viewing the World Cup as a major revolution in South Africa's transport system. Long after the 2010 FIFA World Cup, our transport systems should be able to sustain our economy.

It is the government's intention to ensure that investments made in transport services and infrastructure should benefit the rest of the province and the country as a whole.

There are major investments across all transport systems – roads, rail, water, and air - which represent the most widespread development ever seen in the country.

The underlying assumption in all this is government's commitment to ensure a safe, effective, efficient and affordable

transport system for our people by 2010 and beyond.

More than R3.4 billion is being spent on projects that are not necessarily to cater for the influx of international visitors but will also serve to promote local economic growth.

The construction and upgrading of rural roads and bridges forms a pivotal part of our infrastructure development. Rural communities need to have access to the Football Development Areas and be part of the nation in preparing for 2010 and beyond.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport in its efforts to meet the infrastructural requirements and its readiness for 2010 and beyond have focused on the development of the following road networks as illustrated below.

These road networks will improve and facilitate the flow

of traffic to the football areas and airports in the Province.

### *Ethekwini Municipality – R102 Upgrading*

This project comprises the upgrading of 16 km of Main Road 2 to 4 lanes between Duff's Road to King Shaka International Airport, and 3 km of Main Road 94 to 6 lanes between Mount Edgecombe Interchange to N2, to provide necessary capacity improvement and an alternative access to the Airport. These existing generally 2 lane arterial roads link the moderate to densely populated peri urban areas of Mount Edgecombe, Ottawa, Verulam and Tongaat.

### *Umgungundlovu Football*



### *Development Area:*

The development to this area will have its base camp around Pietermaritzburg. A road upgrade on P399 between Taylors Halt and Nxamalala will be key to the flow of traffic within the City and will be complemented by the Intermodal Public Transport Facilities, which will make accessibility of public transport to various destinations easier.

### *Ugu Football Development Area*

In this District Municipality, various road upgrades are currently underway and should be completed before the 2010 kick-off. An upgrade on P68 which links Umgodi to Lushaba via St Faiths and forms a transport corridor from High Flats to Port Shepstone, is currently under construction, and is expected to be completed before the 2010 kick-off. The Integrated Public Transport Facilities should also be completed to make accessibility to all modes of public transport easier.

### *Uthungulu Football Development Area*

In this District Municipality, Richards Bay will be utilized as the base camp. Projects which are currently under construction include P496 (John Ross Highway) which moves

on Empangeni and Richards Bay Transport Corridor, P325 (Nongoma to Mtubatuba) which moves on the Nongoma to N2 Transport Corridor. Other projects that are currently underway are the P700 (Ulundi to Empangeni) and P230/P240 (Ongoye to Mhlathuze River) which moves on the Eshowe to Empangeni Transport Corridor. The Intermodal Public Transport Facility is also expected to be completed before the 2010 kick-off.

### *Amajuba Football Development Area*

The construction of P296 that links Buhle-Bomzinyathi to Osizweni and moves on the Dundee to Newcastle Transport Corridor will be completed before 2010. The projects in all District Municipalities will however be regarded as Legacy Projects, as their significance will be endured for a very long time.

The Department of Transport is committed to utilizing all sectors of the transportation market to maximize economic development and create jobs and opportunities for the people of KwaZulu-Natal. The Department's vision *Prosperity through mobility* simply undertakes that all activities of the Department and the manner in which it delivers services to communities, will increase the wealth and quality of life for all citizens.

*'prosperity through mobility'*



# Road crashes make people poorer - Hlabisa



Road crashes make a direct contribution to poverty and loneliness. Gogo Shezi is left alone and without her family breadwinner following the death of her loved ones who were wiped out in a vehicle collision. Mzikhona Shezi (26), Zwelihle Shezi (36), and his wife, Andiswa Mahobe (27), along with their two children, Wandile, and Emihle, aged six, and one respectively, were laid to rest in Enqabeni (Harding) recently. Attending the funeral was the Head of Department for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, Chris Hlabisa, Mayor Dumile A. Ngubo, Councillors, government officials and community members. Hlabisa mentioned that each and every year we lose R56 billion in the economy when people die on the road.

## Life turns bad for road carnage victims



**KwaZulu-Natal Transport Head, Mr. Chris Hlabisa greeting a bereaved family who lost their loved ones in a road-related accident. The Department visits affected families to evaluate the impact of road crashes on their livelihood throughout the province.**

**T**he government is working tirelessly to ensure that South Africa becomes a safe and better place for all. But the challenge now is that despite its commitment to the safety of the people, there is continuous loss of life on the roads.

Research has shown that a very high percentage of accidents are preceded by a

road traffic violation, which makes the improvement of road-user perceptions, attitudes and behaviour a matter of urgency.

Government is of the view that reckless drivers contribute directly to increased poverty levels in the country. The estimated cost of the impact of deaths and injuries sustained as a result of road accidents is now

R56 billion per annum. Innocent road accident

victims are leaving behind their families in poverty in a country that is working hard to remove the adverse effects of the apartheid system on the majority of its citizens.

Igalelo recently visited some of the families whose loved ones were victims of road accidents. It was clear that life always takes a turn for the worst for the family members who are left behind after an accident.

The families see the person leave in the morning and expect to see them return in the evening but they never do. Another tragedy of the situation is that often when breadwinners die on the roads leaving their children to fend for themselves. Hence the too many child-headed households in our country can also be attributed to road deaths.

Ms. Maureen Majola from Inanda is an unemployed elderly woman who lost her husband in a road accident in April 2007. Her husband, Mr. Simon Mahlaba, did part time jobs here and there in order to financially secure his family but was hit by a car as he was crossing a road

to a nearby store.

The vehicle fled the scene and he was immediately taken to Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, where he passed away at 1.30 am. Majola was then left to look after 6 children with no financial support from government or family.

She did not know about the Road Accident Fund (RAF) and as a result she has not been compensated for her loss. The KZN Department of Transport's road safety wing is offering a free service to people like Majola who want to claim from the RAF.

Ms. Nelisiwe Gama, also from Inanda, lost her sister in a collision that occurred on the M25. The late Ms. Bongwiwe Gama had been travelling from work on a rainy afternoon when the taxi driver lost control of the vehicle due to speeding.

"The sad part about all this is that on my way from work, we drove past the accident scene and it did not click in my mind that my sister could have been involved in that. I had a hard time tracing her whereabouts as she did not come home for

two nights. I checked all the hospitals in my area and she did not appear anywhere. Finally I was advised to go to the mortuary and identify my sister's body," says the distraught Nelisiwe.

Bongwiwe left behind three children all under the age of 14 who receive no social grants. The RAF pulled through for this family, who were in much need and her documents are efficiently being processed.

The Department and the Taxi association involved offered great support to all the families who lost loved ones in the collision. The Department assisted with the funeral costs. Bongwiwe's children were badly affected by the horrific loss of their mother so much that the eldest son Ntokozo became emotionally disturbed and started to do badly at school.

He is slowly recovering and coming to terms with the loss of his mother. It is because of his mother's tragic untimely death that he has decided he wants to be a judge when he graduates from school, to discipline road users who break the law.

*'prosperity through mobility'*



# Religious Community Urged to Work with Government



Transport Head Mr. Chris Hlabisa and Rev. Selby Khumalo from Religious Programmes in the Office of the Premier with some of the Pastors from the Twelve Apostles Church in Christ during their annual church celebration in Mgababa (South Coast).

**K**ZN Transport Head Mr. Chris Hlabisa has urged all religious communities to continue to work with the government in ensuring safety on the roads, and stability in the province. Hlabisa was addressing thousands of members of the Twelve Apostles Church in Christ during their annual celebration at their Umgababa Farm, on the South Coast.

The gathering coincided with National Women’s Day celebrations.

He said that the government is prepared to work in partnership with the church in making the lives of the people better.

“This country, last year, lost more than 15 000 people due to road crashes. This is attributed to fatigue, speed, drinking and driving/walking, unroadworthy vehicles and weather conditions. All these factors contribute directly to increased poverty in the country.”

“Therefore, as government we like to work with churches on issues of road safety and the well-being of the people of KZN. We urge all members of the church to help us spread the message of road safety wherever we go. Religious organisations are making a meaningful impact in shaping societal behaviour and attitudes.”

He further encouraged the church members and the community as a whole to take programmes developed by the

provincial government seriously, particularly those dealing with challenges resulting from the global recession.

“The government is working hard to remove the adverse effects of the apartheid system on the majority of its citizens. All programmes of this government are biased towards the poor and previously disadvantaged,” he said.

Such programmes include the Food Security Programme, which promotes food gardens at homes, churches, clinics and villages. Another is entrepreneurship, which encourages communities to form co-operatives and obtain relevant skills.

The HOD also encouraged the church to intervene and ensure that children get quality education and are protected from sexual abuse by educators.

“Through good and quality education, we are rest assured of good skills for the future of our country,” he said.

## Scholar Patrol in action



Scholar patrol is a road safety programme aimed at assisting learners to cross the road to and from school safely. Igalelo visited Cosmo Primary in Mkhambathini and Stanger Manor Primary in Stanger to see the programme in action recently. With this programme the Department seeks to instill a sense of responsibility in children at an early age. Over 125 schools are involved in the programme, which helps to reduce fatalities.

*‘prosperity through mobility’*



## Traffic College Gets a Facelift

**K**waZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Willies Mchunu (pictured left) has urged provincial traffic officers to treat their customers (road users) with respect and to handle firearms with due care.

Mchunu was speaking during the official opening of the newly revamped Traffic Training College in Pietermaritzburg recently. The renovations cost about R20 million to complete. Since its humble beginnings in 1966, the College now boasts the capacity to accommodate about 120 trainee officers at a time.

The MEC believes that people who join the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) should do so as a calling and not simply because they are unemployed. He believes their career choice as traffic officers should be made because they are determined to tackle the task of road safety.

"This renovation work confirms the fact that the Department of Transport takes its constitutional responsibility to ensure the safety of our people and managing a reliable road transport system in the province very seriously."

"Our Traffic Training College is a huge asset not only to the province and the country but also to the international community, judging by the constant streams of African and overseas visitors coming here to compare notes with our RTI team," said

Mchunu. For many years, the KwaZulu-Natal Traffic Training College has been seen as the leading traffic college amongst its other major competitors. In 2005, the College became the first to be accredited with the LGSETA in terms of the SAQA legislation. The College is also accredited with the Safety and Security SETA for the training of traffic officers in the use of firearms.

There are currently 102 trainee traffic officers enrolled for the 6-month Traffic Management Course. By 2010, a total of 520 new traffic officers would have been trained at the College.

As the newly appointed MEC, Mchunu also took the opportunity to thank his predecessors, Dr. S'bu Ndebele and Mr. Bheki Cele for being trendsetters in the Department of Transport. Both have been appointed to positions at national government level, Ndebele as Minister of Transport and Cele as National Police Commissioner.

"I am particularly pleased that as a learner myself in this role of being MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, I've not only comrades-in-arms, but, superb teachers in Manzankosi & Ndosini. On behalf of the people of KwaZulu-Natal, I thank them for the work they did for our province, and equally congratulate them for availing themselves to serve our country in their new capacities," he concluded.

**1. The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mr. Willies Mchunu during the official opening of the new Traffic Training College in Pietermaritzburg.**

**2. The revamped building of the Traffic Training College.**

**3. Traffic Officers parading during the opening of the College.**





# Eye Catching Personalised Licence Numbers



As far back as 1996, the motoring public's passion for small licence numbers and/or special preference licence numbers, was identified. To this end, the Department of Transport's Motor Transport Services (MTS) in 1996 introduced the sale of specific licence numbers, for eg, NP 123456, much to the delight of the KwaZulu-Natal motoring public!

Further, with the Department's strong views on providing access to rural communities, the concept of personalised licence numbers

(PLN's) was introduced, with the intention of all monies accruing there from to be made available for the building of rural access roads. This concept not only catered for the public's needs, but also for those communities cut off from health care, schools, etc.

KZN, the first Province in the country to introduce PLN's, was the trend setter in South Africa, with regard to the sale of these unique numbers in 1997, with the Eastern and Western Cape following in 1999, and Gauteng Province in 2000. All these Provinces visited KZN, and with the assistance of the dynamic Choice Numbers team

from the then Motor Licensing Bureau (MLB), now called MTS, duplicated the procedures utilised by KZN.

The unique and most appropriate name given to the team dealing with PLN's i.e. "Choice Numbers" arose as a result of a statement made by the then MEC for Transport to "give the public their choice" in choosing a personalised licence number.

In view of the uniqueness of this concept, it was also felt that the number plates look "unique" "different", and "make a statement", hence green on white number plates were introduced for personalized licence numbers in KZN.

Since the inception of PLN's in 1997, the price of buying a personalised number plate has gone up from R1500 to R2084. This has borne fruit in that KZN continues to lead the country in the generation of revenue from the sale of PLN's. The cost of R1500 and R2084 may at first seem too low, however the intention, based on the experience of other markets, is to provide for as wide a base-market as possible. This has resulted in income being protracted over a longer period,

with improved returns rather than putting the price out of the reach of those other than the affluent, and gaining large returns over a shorter period, until such limited market is bled dry. Furthermore, in determining the initial cost of R1500, it was felt that such should be in line with a commodity that the "man on the street" could afford, like the cost of a suit.

Since 3 March 1997, approximately 46 901 PLN's have been sold, generating a whopping R 76 million in revenue to date. Considering the fact that this venture is marketed and controlled by MTS, hence keeping costs to a minimum, the profits from this venture are indeed maximum and this is good for KZN profit coffers.

Due to popular demand, the sale of black on white PLN's for passenger-carrying vehicles for reward (taxis), was approved by the Head: Transport and was introduced in March 2004. This concept has also boosted the sale of Personalised Licence Numbers, and catered for the needs of taxi owners.

As a marketing initiative, the Choice Numbers Section attends motor shows, holds lucky number draws, set up displays,

etc. at various popular shopping malls, which further boosts the number of applications received, and more often than not, the sale of PLN's doubles on such occasions.

Although the sale of PLN's was proving extremely successful, KZN was of the opinion that this success could be improved upon, if 7-digit personalised licence numbers could be made available to the public, as opposed to only the maximum of 6-digits. The introduction of 7-digit PLN's in KZN not only allowed for additional combinations, but also catered for people's surnames, which the 6 digit numbers could not cater for, e.g. Ndebele, Hlabisa, Mtshali, Madondo, Maharaj, Moodley, Mitchel, Joubert, etc.

For more information please call 033 395 1869 or visit their offices at 230 Prince Alfred Street in Pietermaritzburg. You can send them a fax on 033 345 3332/3350 or send them an email at [choicenumbers@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:choicenumbers@kzntransport.gov.za)



Above, MEC for the Department of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Willies Mchunu, the National Minister for Police Mr. Nathi Mthethwa and National Commissioner Mr. Bheki Cele during the official opening of the newly built Inanda Police Station, north of Durban.

## Police will never surrender

opening of the new station, National Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa assured the community that the facility belongs to them.

"This station is one of the measures to intensify the fight against crime and for the criminals to know they will not stand in the way of a just, humane and peaceful society. As a new administration, we have inherited the spirit of no surrender even in the face of immense adversity. We must act in unity against crime, determine our own destiny and rid our country of these heartless mercenaries," said Mthethwa.

The event was blessed by the presence of the newly appointed KZN MEC for Transport,

Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu and National Police Commissioner, Bheki Cele among others.

Residents in the area said that they are grateful to their government because crime is now going to be tackled and that they hoped to see an improvement. "Crime is very high in this area and we trust this police station will provide a glimmer of hope," said one resident.

This police station is an investment that is managed under the guidance of Director Vukani Mgbhozi who says that this facility places great responsibility on them to work with the community to ensure the provision of quality service.

One of the measures the government is taking to intensify its war

against crime is infrastructure development. This includes sufficient and user-friendly police stations.

This commitment by

government has seen Inanda Police Station, north of Durban, being built to the tune of R43 million.

Speaking during the official

*'prosperity through mobility'*