



**SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. BHEKI CELE AT THE
HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF A SAPS HELICOPTER ON
MONDAY, 7 MARCH 2005.**

AII PROTOCOL OBSERVED.

- The South African Police Services (SAPS), whose primary function it is to create conditions for safety and security in South Africa, is expected by government to be an effective and efficient service, in which all citizens can have the fullest confidence.
- For this to happen the police must be well-trained, competent and work well with members of the communities they serve.

- In other words, they have to define themselves into the progressive, democratic programmes of our government by word and deed.
- Police visibility has become a key issue in the crime prevention strategy of the SAPS.
- Therefore, the provision of this new helicopter by national government will assist us tremendously in our fight against crime, especially in areas that could not be tackled previously due to a lack of capacity.
- This new resource will increase our capabilities to patrol areas such as the Lesotho Boarder, as well as monitor the dagga trade between Lesotho and KwaZulu-Natal, and provide air support to our mobile task teams.
- The unit's capabilities in respect of rescues, especially in the Drakensberg area will also improve tremendously.
- This aircraft is able to carry four passengers quite comfortably, which will improve the unit's ability to troop four police officers for crimes such as stock theft and fire arm operations.

- This helicopter will also assist in hot spots such as the Midlands, Tugela Ferry, Pomeroy, Ulundi and Pongola.
- I wish to reiterate that whatever strategies we use to combat crime, it should be acknowledged that our efforts will not be appreciated until we reach a position where in many instances we can stop crime before it happens.
- To this end, our crime combating strategy is designed to achieve this over time, mainly through visibility and mobility.
- In closing, I wish to place on record our thanks and appreciation for the good work being carried out by the majority of our SAPS members.
- Indeed, our police officials continue to fight crime under very difficult circumstances, in order to ensure a safe and secure environment for all the people of South Africa.
- We appreciate your efforts.

I thank you.

