



SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. BHEKI CELE AT THE ROAD OPENING AT MBULELWENI NEAR DONNYBROOK ON WEDNESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2005.

All protocol observed.

- The South African government regards the provision of road infrastructure as a fundamental component of economic reconstruction and development.
- To this end, our provincial government is working closely with our communities, district councils and local municipalities to establish a local development agenda that resonates with our provincial growth and development strategy.
- The development of access roads and the promotion of labour intensive construction methods are important focus areas that will enable transport to

provide the much needed infrastructure in remote rural communities, and ensure that jobs are created where they are needed the most.

- The Mbhulelweni road is 3.2 kilometres long, and was constructed over a period of four months costing almost R794 000.
- This project created temporary employment opportunities for the community, offering more than 100 jobs to about 61 females and 39 males.
- The Sisonke District Municipality together with my department have agreed to incorporate this project under our Zibambele road maintenance programme, which will also create more employment opportunities for women.
- It is envisaged that this project will bring about other much needed services such as electricity, telecommunication facilities and so on.
- The National Transport Policy indicates that the demands for access should be met in a sustainable way that delivers economic, environmental and social goals.

- This focus is consistent with the Presidential call for infrastructure delivery through the Expanded Public Works Programme, and calls for the provision of rural transport infrastructure and services in order to ensure access and mobility in rural areas.
- It also focuses on the provision of integrated rural transport systems that will unlock local economic development, link communities with social and economic services, and ensure that the quality of life for rural communities is improved through exposure to technology, trade and service.
- Today, it gives me great pleasure to officially open Mbhulelweni Road.
- This road is critical to enabling the community to access markets, schools and other services that are vital for their well being.
- This project is yet another indication of our government's resolve to strengthen our commitment to bring hope to those communities most in need, so that they too can have just cause to celebrate a better life for all.
- Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous 2005.

I thank you.