



**SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. B.H. CELE AT THE
HANDING OVER OF BICYCLES TO LEARNERS AT AMAHLUBI
SECONDARY SCHOOL AT EPHANGWENI MISSION NEAR
ESCOURT ON THURSDAY, 1 JUNE 2006.**

All Protocol Observed.

- During his address at the official opening of the 2006 Velo Mondial International Bicycle Conference on 6 March, our national Minister of Transport, Mr. Jeff Radebe, stated that the International Bicycle Fund reports that, "Cuba made headlines in the early 90's by implementing an aggressive bike transport policy....."
- The South African Government is rolling out a programme called Shova Kalula (Zulu for Pedal or Ride Easy) Bicycle Transport Programme. In this regard, the national Department of Transport has set the goal of distributing one million affordable bicycles countrywide in a period of five to ten years. In addition, a serious effort will need to be made to have all municipalities include non-motorised transport as a mainstream mode in their local transport plans and projects.

- During the demonstration phase of Shova Kalula, the national Transport Department made an amount of R10 million available to supply 19 411 bicycles to schoolchildren. To date 22 Shova Kalula micro business enterprises have been established in six provinces.
- Therefore I am extremely proud and grateful today that in partnership with the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA), we will be handing over 97 speed bicycles with helmets to learners at Amahlubi Secondary School, who travel more than five kilometres to get to school.
- ACSA has set aside a budget of R200 000 for this project and will purchase 24 518 speed bicycles with helmets which will be distributed to various schools. May I take this opportunity to congratulate ACSA on this kind gesture and to also encourage other organisations to partner with government in “Defending the Weak”.
- Today’s handing over ceremony is also taking place whilst we are commemorating Child Protection Week. Child Protection Week (CPW) is an opportunity for us to rededicate ourselves to ensuring that children are fully able to exercise their constitutional rights and enjoy full dignity of freedom. As government we are working 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.

- We have resolved in South Africa that the use of non-motorised transport, such as the acceptance and promotion of walking and cycling as a form of public transport, is of paramount importance. The protection of our environment as well as regular exercise through increased cycling is a worthy inheritance we can bequeath to our children.
- We are still faced with a situation where municipal roads are being built primarily for motorists. This is a task that municipalities must respond to squarely in designing their public transport plans, infrastructure development, and land use policies.
- In conclusion, may I request that you take good care of these bicycles and ensure that they last long enough in order to create a better life for you.

THANK YOU.