



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. BHEKI CELE AT THE
BUSINESS TRUST LONG RUN HELD IN GREYTOWN ON
WEDNESDAY 01 AUGUST 2007.**

Protocol Observed

- We are gathered here today simply because, as the government and private sectors, we have realized the importance of us coming together under one roof and engaging in team building exercises such as Long Run, a sport code that is used to mark this annual event.
- There is no doubt in my mind that sport contributes a lot to social integration as well as cultural exchange. It also assist in building a culture of peace and tolerance by bringing people together on common ground, crossing national and other boundaries to promote understanding and mutual respect.
- Today we thank the Business Trust for supporting our government Departments, particularly the National Department of Public Works and KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, to plan, implement and monitor the government programme known as the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) and its projects across the province and the country.

- Every year the Business Trust, in affirming and promoting its support to the public sector, hosts the Long Run where different teams are put together to run some kilometers each.
- The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, as EPWP coordinators in the province, identified the Zibambele project in Muden, Greytown, as an example of a Zibambele project that can be showcased today.
- The Zibambele Programme is an initiative of the KwaZulu-Natal Department Transport, and is part of the EPWP. The EPWP is a short term government programme aimed at drawing a significant number of unemployed South Africans into productive work, enabling them to gain skills and increase their capacity to earn an income.
- The Zibambele Road Maintenance Contract System, which falls under the infrastructure sector of the EPWP, is a poverty alleviation programme that contracts a household rather than an individual to maintain a length of road over time, requiring a maximum of 60 hours of work per month.
- The Main Road 161 which serves and forms a boundary between the Msinga and Mvoti Local Municipalities provides a location for implementation of the Zibambele programme by these two municipalities, through Rural Roads Transport Forums (RRTF).
- Within the Msinga Local Municipality or Msinga RRTF, the Zibambele Programme has absorbed 1060 Zibambele contractors into the system, while in the Mvoti Local Municipality or Greytown RRTF, the programme has provided employment to 806 Zibambele contractors.

- An important component of the Zibambele Programme is the emphasis on Community Empowerment Exit Strategies. For example, the 43 Zibambele contractors in the Mvoti Local Municipality have established two Savings Clubs with the assistance and guidance of the Department and their business and other partners, offering business life skills training.
- The Siz'umndeni Savings Club has saved a total of R21,310.34. It comprises 27 savings club members, while the Indumiso Saving Club has saved R2,894.09 to date and it has 16 members.
- There are discussions underway between the Department of Transport and the Department of Education to engage the Zibambele contractors in this region in ABET Programmes, as with all other Zibambele beneficiaries throughout the province. ABET is already responsible for the upward mobility of a number of government employees at lower level. After going through ABET, it has become a common trend to see some general assistants becoming clerks.
- The impact of the Zibambele programme on these contractors, and indirectly on their communities, is significant. Contractors, who are all women, are now able to feed and clothe their families, send their children and grandchildren to school, obtain Identity Documents, open bank accounts, invest savings in other productive activities, and so become more active participants in the economy.

I thank you