**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B. H. CELE AT THE ICDL GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON THURSDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2007**

**All Protocol Observed**

- We have come here today to celebrate the achievements in the technology industry. The graduation of International Computers Driver's Licence (ICDL) trainees marks a historic event in the development of our human resource within the Department.

- We welcome the participation of learners which bears testimony to the progress made by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport's T² Training Centre in providing the basic level computer skills that employers desire incoming employees to possess.

- It is not my intention today to outline the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport's history of progress in supporting disadvantaged population groups and its employees in this instance, to grow and to prosper and to share the wealth of KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa.

- The fact that so many graduates are here today is in itself indicative that you have been in a position to take advantage of the new policy frameworks, and learning opportunities our government has made available since it came to power.

- We know that more often than not organisations tend to neglect the internal skills they have. This Department cannot condone such tendencies particularly in a country like South Africa which experiences a skewed relationship in terms of growth and skills.

- Our government, through National Skills Development Strategy, has six objectives one of which is "promoting employability and sustainability livelihoods through skills development".

- To achieve this objective, the department is expanding its skills development programmes at all levels through all its social upliftment programmes. The officials of the Department are a very critical component in the execution of our mandates.

- Our intention is to maximize and monitor skills development and retention strategy for officials to better position the Department to deliver on its mandate whilst ensuring transformation of the Department. This will ensure that not only are the scarce skills attracted and retained, but also that the department does not lose the skills already acquired.

- The ICDL is an actual measure of computer skills that is internationally recognised and provides a balance between employer needs and employee skills. For those new to computers, ICDL provides a solid foundation of computer skills that ensures competence and confidence in using a computer. The Department has adopted ICDL as the standard for computer literacy.

- In conclusion, it is very encouraging that as a result of this ICDL programme, about 100 learners will now have a full accredited qualification; the skills and competencies to be utilised and applied within their relevant sections.

- I would also like to thank them for taking the step to acquire skills and knowledge that will allow them to take charge of their own future.

- Finally, let us all go and enjoy responsibly during this festive season. The end of the year should not be the end of our lives. JUST DO RIGHT. LIVE AND LET LIVE.

**I THANK YOU.**