



SPEECH NOTES BY KZN MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF BHEKAMANKENGANE ROAD IN INGWAVUMA ON SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2007.

Protocol Observed.

- Today is a great day for the people of Ingwavuma, particularly, communities of the Nyamane and KwaBheka areas. The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport continues to unlock the economic shackles by means of innovative programmes that seek to address rural poverty.
- Our efforts in trying to push back the frontiers of poverty are not going unnoticed. Our innovative programmes have been well received and highly appreciated by the leadership of this country who continue to heap accolades for the good work done by the Department.

- This explains why I am extremely delighted to be part of the official opening ceremony of Bhekamankengane Road. To the people of Ingwavuma, I salute you and congratulate you today for your new victory.
- Your struggle against oppression is slowly being rewarded. As the government of the people, we will remove all obstacles in your way to prosperity. We will be with you in all the challenges you face.
- The Bhekamankengane Road is located in the Nyawo Traditional Authority. It was requested by the local communities during the visit of the four MECs who were led by the Provincial Premier while he was still the MEC for Transport.
- The road was constructed in 2005 with the estimated value of R5,4 million. It is 12,5 kilometres long and it links D1837 at KwaBheka and D850 at Nyamane.
- Before this road was constructed, the community of Nyamane had to travel long distances to Ingwavuma Town and scholars from KwaBheka who are attending at Nyamane High School had to travel about 25 km to the school. The distance now has been reduced to about 10 km.

- The communities around the area of Nyamane have started farming in the area as this road has provided suitable access for their tractors and other farming equipments. Local women are able to transport and sell the agricultural products planted along the road to Bhambanana and Ingwavuma towns.
- Indeed, if the road network fails, our provincial economy will collapse. The challenge for us is to remedy road network inequalities that arose during apartheid. We need to grow our rural economies and serve our rural populations.
- It is very important to mention that this road will be an additional catalyst for my favourite poverty alleviation programme, Zibambele. 26 Zibambele households will benefit from the maintenance thereof. This means that about 150 dependants will be able to have access to food in those households.
- Finally, I urge everyone here to be part of the Transport family and ensure that together we bring a better life for all.

I thank you

