



SPEECH NOTES FOR THE KZN MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF A R2 MILLION MULTI PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 26 JULY 2007- MALANGENI VILLAGE IN UMDONI (SCOTTBURGH):

All protocol observed.

- There is nothing that makes me happy like being part of the launch of a project that will impact positively on the lives of ordinary people.
- Last week, I was presenting 171 Amakhosi with certificates for having taken part in a crime-management course at the University of Zululand, and I told them that there is nothing that makes me happy than seeing people relieved that they now have a bridge or road in accordance with my Department's mandate.
- Wherever I go in KwaZulu Natal, I am telling people that it is my Department's short and long-term goal to ensure that every community amenity, like a school, community hall, clinic or Multi Purpose Community Centre, etc., must be reported to my Department if there is no access road leading to it.

- Community centres are important precisely because this is where all community related matters are discussed and resolved. The Department of Community Safety & Liaison, for which I am responsible as its political principal, stands to benefit from the government's commitment to provide community facilities like the one that we are launching today.
- This centre is an ideal model and an epitome of the government's Integrated Development Plan (IDP). This place will not only have a Community Safety Centre, but there will be a Ward Councillor Consultation Office, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Home Affairs, Office for Special Projects – Women, Disabled, Youth & HIV/AIDS Council.
- Needless to say, this centre is a perfect platform in which the work of the newly formed Justice and Crime-Prevention System (JCPS) will find expression. You will recall that the provincial government gave my Department to host a crime summit which was held at the Durban City Hall this year. The summit appointed a special committee that was subsequently launched at the Pietermaritzburg Royal Showgrounds.
- The JCPS has a mandate to develop and mould members of society in a holistic manner. The JCPS include stakeholders such as Social Welfare, Justice, Education, Home Affairs, Sports and Recreation, Community Safety & Liaison.

- Some of the things that the JCPS is tasked to achieve include the following:
 - Relocate homeless children on the street by identifying places of safety and potential new places of safety;
 - Give children a proper identity such as ID documents etc.;
 - Trace parents or relatives of the children and establish educational and recreational facilities for children;
 - Promote moral regeneration by preventing crime in all communities. Here the focus will be on building family units, the family value system and community structures;
 - The JCPS will target traditional and religious structures and provide crime prevention training to these structures which will anchor communities in dialogue to promote peace and nation building;
 - Municipalities are expected to deal with dilapidated buildings and improve the environment which is often a potential home for the homeless and criminals.

- The multi purpose community centre can only be expected to be a home for the JCPS. This is a home for community functions, resolving community challenges and finding solutions to joblessness, poverty and such societal ills as crime.

- I congratulate you for this and I trust that it will not be a white elephant, but a meaningful and productive venue in which society benefits.

I thank you.