



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE TRANSPORT  
INDABA AT VRYHEID ON TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2007**

**Protocol observed**

- It has become part of the tradition of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport to report to the public at large, through various stakeholder organisations, on the progress made by my Department in the previous financial year and to outline our plans for the current financial year.
- I am therefore pleased today to report back to you at our twelfth Transport Indaba. We are reporting back to our stakeholders on issues raised at the Transport Indaba held in October 2006. We also give recognition to our stakeholders in respect of their achievements and to our employees who have played excellence in service delivery.

- At the last year's Indaba, various issues were raised in respect of the following:
  - 2010 Soccer World Cup;
  - Planning and Infrastructure;
  - Road Safety; and
  - Public Transport
  
- As we all know that 2010 is on our doorstep, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to announce that the Department of Transport will play its part whilst ensuring that the core business of the department remains a priority and cannot be jeopardised. The Road Traffic Inspectorate and Public Transport Enforcement Unit have compiled comprehensive plans in anticipation of the 2010 World Cup.
  
- With regard to roads infrastructure, the Department has reprioritised its budget over 2007/08 MTEF period in order to ensure that funding is made available in 2007/08 and 2008/09 for the planning and design of roads required in the vicinity of the Dube Trade Port and the new airport.
  
- The 2006/07 financial year sent strong signals to us as a Department to intensify our Road Safety education and awareness programmes, as we continue to enforce traffic laws. Crashes on our roads and especially increasing fatalities involving pedestrians, were a cause of concern.
  
- If 79% of learners walk school and the main mode of transport for 18% of workers in the province is walking, the Department remains with no option but to engage with communities on road safety education whilst enforcing the law. To this end, the year 2007 is dedicated to pedestrians.

- The past year saw us intensifying our community participation in departmental programmes. It is my pleasure to report on the progress made in public transport in this regard. The bus industry is now formalized and organized with the formation of the KwaZulu-Natal Bus Council (KWANABUCO).
- Furthermore, commuters now have a voice in this province. The formation of commuter associations announced in the 2006 budget speech became a reality. We have just finalized the process, culminating in the election of a provincial structure which representative of all regions.
- The past year saw us vigorously implementing the Taxi Recapitalization Programme as mandated by the National Department of Transport. I am proud to announce that in December 2006, the KZN Department of Transport launched the New Taxi Vehicles (NTVs) and scrapped the Old Taxi Vehicles (OTV). Progress has also been made on Conversions.
- The Department is committed to championing Non-Motorized Transport. During the 2006/07 financial year, bicycles were donated by the Department in partnership with Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA) to rural schools. We look forward to seeing non-motorised transport becoming a way of life of our people and indeed part and parcel of our programmes at Transport.

- Our visit to Curitiba in Brazil gave us ammunition for intensifying our fight against poverty. The Curitiba programme of collecting waste and exchanging it for food parcels is called Garbage that is not Garbage. It could prove to be a great success in the fight against poverty in this country. This programme was warmly received by the KZN Cabinet and the National Department of Public Works.
- I am proud to report that in the last financial year, more than 32 076 contracts were awarded to poor rural households under the Zibambele programme. A total of 912 Zibambele Saving Clubs were established, saving collectively more than R6,6 million.
- The Department is well recognized through this programme. It is now being rolled out nationally, and was recently recognized as the best practice model for EPWP at an award ceremony hosted by the Minister of Public Works in December 2006.
- During this Indaba, the Department will grant recognition to our stakeholders (and partners) who have excelled in their various work spheres. We recognize that our stakeholders are key to the Department in meeting our strategic goals and as such we need to grant recognition to those who have excelled.
- The Department is also proud of its staff and recognizes that its human resources are key to a smooth-running and successful Department that is able to deliver on its mandates. In an effort to recognize excellence in service delivery, the Department is introducing a “Service Excellence Award System” for its employees.

- This system will be utilized to publicly acknowledge and recognize employees in the Department who have demonstrated and displayed excellence in service delivery.
  
- The aims of the system are:
  - To recognize outstanding achievements and contributions to service improvements made by employees;
  - To reward the one person who far exceeds customer and Departmental expectations in terms of quality of work and speed of service;
  - To recognize an exceptional act that is deemed deserving of recognition;
  - To promote awareness of how excellent performance and improvement in performance takes place within the Department.
  
- The Department embarked on a process of developing a White Paper on Transport policy in 2005. The mandates for embarking on such a process were:
  - **Constitutional Imperatives:** SA Constitution gives provinces legislative competence over various transport aspects affecting municipalities
  
  - **National Land Transport Transition Act:** The NLTTA requires provinces to prepare Provincial Transport Policy which is aligned to the National White Paper and will guide municipalities in all aspects of transport.

- **Intergovernmental Framework Relations Act:** In order to ensure integrated service delivery it is imperative that the province sets out policies regarding roles and responsibilities for all transport functions and infrastructure.
  
- **Funding:** Inadequate funding for transport requires innovation and the need to make difficult policy choices
  
- It was also crucial that such a policy be prepared as the risks of not having such document could be summarized as follows
  - Fragmentation of policies and increasing confusion;
  - Poor intergovernmental coordination and role confusion retard delivery and development;
  - Losing the policy initiative – as more policies are developed there is less room to influence new policies;
  - Unfunded mandates strain provincial budget.
  
- The White Paper will focus on areas which are :
  1. Planning, Co-ordination and Consultation
  2. Empowerment and Job Creation
  3. Transport Infrastructure
  4. Traffic Management and Road Safety
  5. Public Transport
  6. Freight

- At the Transport Indaba held in 2006, the Brown Paper, which was a culmination of work done at the time in respect of the development process, was launched for consultation. Since that event, numerous consultative processes were held with representatives from other provincial departments, municipalities, associations and stakeholders in the transport sphere.
- These consultations have resulted in the Green Paper being developed, which is now being released for consultation. All feedback received in respect of the Green Paper will be considered for the final development of the White paper on Transport Policy.
- Finally Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Department under the leadership of Mr Chris Hlabisa as well as all our delegates, and in particular Amakhosi, Members of Parliament, Mayors and all other stakeholders for their contribution to this Transport Indaba

**I thank you.**