



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIASON MR BHEKI CELE DURING THE EPWP
AWARDS CEREMONY ON WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2008.**

Protocol observed

- ? As the MEC charged with coordinating the Expanded Public Works Programme in this province, I would like to conscientize other Government departments that EPWP is not only for Department of Transport.
- ? However, this is government's strategy of bringing hope to our poor citizens by affording them an opportunity of earning an income while acquiring skills simultaneously.
- ? In 2006, the government of the day entered into a contract with the people of South Africa, and unless all officials are willing to change from being civil servants to public servants, that contract will never be honoured. Thus programmes like EPWP require serious commitments in terms of resources.
- ? As a province, we have been stagnant in introducing new programmes. For the past four years we have been reporting on one and the same programme. Tonight, I would like to challenge departments and municipalities to really be innovative.

- ? There are best practice models all over the world, including other provinces, and all we need to do is to research and tap into this knowledge.
- ? In spite of the many jobs that have been created in this province, I will not be doing justice if I fail to reflect on the challenges that surround the co-ordination of this programme. I will also like to take advantage of the fact that my colleagues that are present with their Heads of Department.
- ? **Challenges:**
- ? The following challenges amongst others have been reported by my officials:
- ? A lack of co-operation and poor attendance by Departments and Municipalities at. coordination meetings;
- ? Lack of submission of reports which inhibits the true reflection of the implementation of EPWP in the Province. It must be mentioned that the EPWP Focus Week has been an indication that this programme is not given the priority it deserves.
- ? In light thereof, I am urging all my political colleagues to ensure that adequate capacity is created in your Departments to drive EPWP.
- ? To all Heads of Department, the Expanded Public Works Programme must be a standing item in your management meetings. Senior officials must report on how they have realigned their budgets from their line functions to create more jobs for poor people instead of just reporting on pure expenditure.

- ? EPWP targets and outputs must form part of their performance agreements, so that they are held accountable for this programme.

- ? Ladies and gentleman this is the only way that as government we can make the lives of our poor citizens better and I have not seen any strategy that is able to afford poor people an opportunity of gaining employment, thereby reducing unemployment in the country as a whole .

- ? Once again, ladies and gentlemen we must remember the people's contract, and we dare not fail our people.

- ? Nevertheless, having said this, there are departments and municipalities who are still committed to this programme and therefore the awards to be presented this evening is about acknowledging their hard work.

- ? This is also a way of reminding those that have not seen the light that the call was made along time ago.

I thank you