



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIASON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE SOD
TURNING OF THE KWABHANYA RIVER BRIDGE ON TUESDAY, 29
JANUARY 2008.**

Protocol Observed

- The KZN Department of Transport has a legislative mandate to manage the transportation system in KwaZulu-Natal. This includes amongst others, the construction, upgrading, maintenance and control of the provincial road network.
- We have come to the Zululand District many times to invest in infrastructure that unlocks local economic development, links communities with social and economic services, and ensures that the quality of life for rural communities is improved.
- Today we are here at BhekuZulu for a sod turning ceremony to facilitate the construction of the Bhanya River Bridge with an estimated cost of R7 million over a period of five months. The purpose of this project is to provide convenient access to the BhekuZulu community.

- During construction, we will enhance skills transfer to SMMEs through the unbundling of construction activities. Contractors will be encouraged to source their material from local suppliers. The appointed main contractor will be expected to provide a training and development programme.
- There is potential for 20 unskilled labour job opportunities that will be structured in compliance with the equity plan. There is also potential for five skilled labour job opportunities. The implementation strategy of this project at the construction stage will ensure skills development.
- We are changing people's lives through the construction of access roads and bridges from the south to the north and from the east to the west. There is no one, neither individuals nor organisations, who will stop us from bringing infrastructure to our people.
- I know that some people are saying we do many sod turnings, perhaps to score political points. But I think it's them who try to score political points by misleading people who have waited so long for this development because we do follow-up on our commitments.
- This is not the first time we have government in the history of South Africa and KwaZulu-Natal in particular. But our people have only begun to see change in their lives through our democratic government's development programmes.

- May I take this opportunity to congratulate the community of Zululand District on all the road and bridge projects they have received and yet to receive.
- Here, I am talking about, among others, D1820, P487, P700, P432, P235/ P49/ P52, P234 Qwasha River Road Bridge, Mpembeni, Sikhwebezi Pedestrian Bridge, Thombothi River Bridge, Obivane River Bridge and Wela River Bridge.
- There can be no doubt that the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is well advanced towards achieving its objective of creating an equitable and sustainable transport systems in KZN and defending the weak.
- In conclusion, this year the Department of Transport is celebrating 10 years of **Asiphephe** which was launched in 1998 by my predecessor now Premier, Mr. Sbu Ndebele. We will be intensifying our road safety campaigns throughout the year and by that, we mean business.
- I want to warn bad drivers in KZN that things will change this year. We are definitely introducing a licence demerit system this financial year and we will be eating your driver's licences alive, slowly but surely.

I thank you