



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B.H. CELE DURING THE LAUNCH  
OF IMISEBENZI IYABONAKALA ON SUNDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2008**

**All Protocol Observed**

- In 2004, we as government made a contract with our people promising to defend the weak. You will all agree that the KZN Department of Transport, has geared all programmes to precisely achieve this goal.
- As per this contract, the Department of Transport has and continues to ensure that the roads, bridges and infrastructure we build benefit the poorest communities. We ensure that the roads we build are means of access to economic resources and prosperity.
- We also ensure that the public transport we manage is user friendly, accessible, safe, affordable and ultimately of benefit to the men and women of not only Durban North or Umlazi, but also to the men and women at uMsinga, oPhongolo, eMahlabathini etc.
- We have and continue to ensure that we integrate our road planning network such that communities in the deep rural areas have access to schools, clinics, hospitals and other services.

- It is against this background therefore that our people who were previously disadvantaged are now on record giving testimony that indeed, we do follow-up on our commitments. Indeed, *imisebenzi iyabonakala*.
- 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.
- As the term of this government under the leadership of the Premier Sbu Ndebele ends in the next few months, I wish to congratulate all of you who have benefited from the government's programmes.
- I also wish to thank all our stakeholders who have always ensured that we move to the same direction as a transport family since my tenure of office. *Imisebenzi yenu iyabonakala*.
- However, some of our projects around the province are being completed and will be handed over to the public before the end of the current financial year. Coincidentally, that will be election time, but elections or no elections our task is to follow-up on our commitments.
- I want to emphasize that as a democratically elected government we have an obligation to serve our people irrespective of which political party they belong to. You have a constitutional right to service delivery. Even if, for your reason, you did not vote for the party that is running government, you have a right to a better life.
- Therefore, as the MEC for Transport in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, I have a political mandate of ensuring that we restore the dignity of female teachers and learners who have to undress when they cross rivers.

- I have a political mandate of ensuring that no individual or organisations will stop us from bringing infrastructure to our people. It is on that score that today's event entails the sod turning to mark the beginning of the construction of Mbudle Road and Mbudle Road Causeway.
- The construction work will involve a substantial financial injection into the area with job opportunities being created for locals. The estimated cost of the project is approximately R1,75 million and will be completed before the end of April next year.
- It is true that when the democratic government took over in 1994, the challenge was not only to address historical imbalances but also to face new challenges such as crime, AIDS, poverty, unemployment etc. It is in this context that we set our selves a goal of achieving a better life for all.
- However, a better life will not just float in a foundation-less space. It is based on certain fundamentals and preconditions. Preconditions for a better life include peace, democracy and development.
- The past five years have seen the Department introducing, among others, Operation Kushunquthuli, Road Safety Education, Siyazenzela Waste Management Programme, Commuter Associations, Transport Academy and the Road Monitoring Programme that we are rolling out in this area today.
- I am also pleased to say that since 2004, much effort has been made to accelerate the recruitment, promotion and retention of women to ensure their true representation in the workforce of this Department.

- In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the people KwaZulu-Natal on all the road and bridge projects they have received and yet to receive. The Department of Transport will continue to serve you and ensure that your lives improve
- The R878,6 billion infrastructure investment and the recruitment of more than 38 000 Zimbabwe contractors who have saved more than R8,2 million in the province for the past five years show that indeed, '*sibuyisela okwabantu kubantu, imisebenzi iyabonakala*'.

**I thank you.**