



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B.H. CELE AT THE SOD
TURNING OF P549 AT MATIMATOLO ON SUNDAY, 03 AUGUST
2008**

All Protocol Observed

- I know that there might be people here who know the Sangweni family. But is not my intention to take you back to what you have gone through. The video you saw is produced by the Department to show how our people, our mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers and relatives and friends die on the road.
- At least you can see it on DVD, we see it live; not once, but many times. I therefore appeal to all road users to please do the right thing. One unfortunate thing about these accidents is that they kill people who are economically active. Another thing is that the impact of fatalities is seen on people left behind.
- Coming to today's event, I want to emphasize that when we bring these projects we do it for people irrespective of which political party they belong to. I am aware that work is already in progress here, but our government's policy says that during the construction work, cost must remain an economic benefit to the communities that project will serve. I therefore expect that to be the case here.

- It has come to my attention that in some areas are requested to produce membership cards for political parties before they are employed for these projects. But I want to warn you as communities also not to allow yourselves to be manipulated politicians who use your weakness for their political gain.
- When the democratic government took over in 1994, the challenge was not only to address historical imbalances but also to face new challenges imposed by globalization; challenges such as crime, AIDS, poverty 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.
- We know that our people who have waited so long for a better life are now on record giving testimony that indeed, we do follow-up on our commitments. We know that when the former MEC for Transport, now Premier Sbu Ndebele, visited this area he promised to upgrade the road at a later stage.
- 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.

- The upgrading of this road will avoid unnecessary prioritisation for re-gravelling almost every financial year and also provide a much healthier and safe environment for the public. The estimated cost of the project is approximately R30 million for the completion of 8 km before the end of March 2009.
- This means that the opening of this road will coincide with election campaigns, but elections or no elections our task is to follow-up on our commitments.
- Once completed, the project will serve the community residing on the Matimatolo area which consists of the following: Four primary schools with approximately 250 learners; over 4 000 households and over 20 000 persons.
- The Department of Transport has also allocated funds to certain projects to assist in enhancing the existing network within the Greytown Rural Road Transport Forum jurisdiction. These projects are intended to be completed by the end of March 2009.
- In conclusion, I am pleased to learn that Umvoti Municipality now has 3 258 Zibambele contractors. There are 29 savings clubs and they have saved R300 000 to date. We must take politics out of this programme. Contractors must be identified and selected on the basis of poverty in their community.
- Finally, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the community of Umzinyathi District on all road and bridge projects they have received and yet to receive.

I thank you.