



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B.H. CELE DURING SOD TURNING  
OF NKUNGUMATHE ACCESS ROAD – INKANDLA ON THURSDAY, 11  
DECEMBER 2008**

**All Protocol Observed**

- Inkandla is one of the areas in the province that have been declared as priority areas for service delivery due to the high rate of poverty and unemployment. It is on that score that the KZN Department of Transport has invested R1,9 billion to deal with the service delivery challenges in this District of Uthungulu.
- 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 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*.
- 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.
- Today's sod turning marks the beginning of the construction of Nkungumathe Access Road that will require two bridges over Imbizo River and Umhlathuze River. The estimated cost of the project, including 5km access road and two bridges is approximately R35 million.
- The construction work will involve a substantial financial injection into the area with job opportunities being created for locals. On completion, this road will be maintained by our Zibambeke road maintenance programme, which will also create more employment opportunities for impoverished women.
- We have been told that some community members have drowned while trying to cross the river in this area. May be it will be proper to dedicate this project to Mr Nxusa who drowned while he was riding a donkey to get his pension payout, Mrs Dlamini and Mrs Zwane who were coming from their work place to visit their families.
- As part of the Department of Transport's social responsibility program, we are transporting technology to schools to improve the administrative and technological capacity of previously disadvantaged schools in this province with a specific focus on rural schools.

- I am therefore pleased to present computers to the previously disadvantaged schools of Inkandla. This highlights the Government's commitment to improve, advance and develop our schools so that South Africa attains a world-class education system.
- I must emphasize that while our mandate as the Department of Transport is that of building roads and ensuring the safety of road users but we also recognize the fact that information too needs to be transported not only on the roads we build but also through computers we donate.
- In conclusion, I strongly encourage both teachers and students to look after these computers and use them effectively. I appeal to all teachers, students, parents and members of Governing Bodies present here today to devise some means of protecting these computers and indeed all school resources because criminals are never on holiday.

**I thank you.**