



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE PET
PROJECT ON SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2008.**

Protocol Observed

- The provision of road infrastructure is closely linked to safety for school children. It is on that score that part of our annual budget goes to the safety of rural school children who still do not have bridges over the river to cross to school.
- Some are caught by crocodiles trying to cross the river. Yet some have been brave enough and they have been remembered for helping out their fellow school pupils to be able to write exams by crossing with exam papers over their heads when the river was flooded.
- There is also a philosophical link between the schools and the road. Both schools and roads help people to take a route that leads them somewhere.
- Who can tell me what the connection is between schools and roads? Do schools and roads lead people to a better life? Do schools and road bring development to people? Roads and schools are some of the most important areas where government is investing a lot of money in order to achieve a better life for all.

- Schools provide you with a road or a route or direction that will make you achieve your dreams like becoming professionals in engineering and be the ones that will design and make the road that we use in order to get to school. My Department is here to make sure that this happens and that it happens safely.
- I am therefore delighted to be part of this occasion today which confirms our commitment as government to bring everyone on board to ensure the safety of our people on the road.
- The Participatory Education Techniques (PET) project is one of our successful road safety programmes undertaken to develop learners' research skills, project management skills, presentation skills and the ability to think innovatively and creatively.
- It is very encouraging that as learners, you are now able to identify road safety problems in your communities and research and present proposed solutions to the problem. You must remember that these problems are evaluated by engineers and road safety experts to see if the solutions can be implemented by our road safety section.
- As a teacher myself, I am advising you respect your educators. You are standing a better chance to get a quality education. It is your attitude towards your schoolwork and respect for one another that will serve as a motivator for your teachers. They are ready to teach you and therefore it is your duty to pay attention and learn.
- You must take charge of your schools and education. Do not allow yourself to be short-changed by educators who do not deliver. You are also expected to apply yourselves to your work, as the Chinese proverb goes: "The teacher only opens the door, you enter by yourself."

- Apart from the PET project and road safety programmes that we do with schools, my Department offers various other learning channels especially to students in the fields of Technical and Civil engineering.
- We visit schools where scholars are encouraged to consider careers in engineering and take science and mathematics. During the visit, learners are exposed to construction sites and offered career mentorship.
- We also have our bursary committee that awards financial assistance to students at university levels who are pursuing fields of Technical and Civil engineering. When we award bursaries, we make an agreement that once they complete their studies, they will work for the Department for a minimum of years equivalent to the years they were funded.
- All this is designed to afford opportunities as well as skills development to people who were previously designated as disadvantaged – to gain support and be able to contribute positively towards upliftment of the economy. I am appealing to you to make use of this opportunity and apply for financial assistance.
- I wish to thank the principals of the schools, the staff and the governing bodies for cultivating the culture of road safety amongst these children. I salute all the officials of the Department of Transport, the employees and the community present here today, for the time dedicated to this occasion. I appeal to you all to assist these young boys and girls to reach their dreams through education.

I thank you.