



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIASON MR BHEKI CELE DURING THE
SISONKE YOUTH SUMMIT ON TUESDAY, 03 JUNE 2008.**

Protocol observed

- The struggle for a better society spans generations, with each generation called upon by the imperatives of its age to carry out its generational mandate. Each succeeding generation faces the responsibility to study its social conditions, accordingly to set its own agenda, so that it can contribute to a better human condition.
- It is for this very reason that the KZN Department of Transport has established programmes specifically targeting our youth. These programmes are indeed a benchmark against which we can judge the progress we make in the empowerment of our young people, especially the previously disadvantaged.
- Our Technology Transfer Centre (T²) has embarked on various apprenticeship skills programmes. Students have been recruited for these programmes on a four year program in Mechanical engineering and others on a one year program in Civil engineering.

- As one of our major investments, the African Renaissance Road Upgrading Programme (ARRUP) plays a vital role in the skills development of students to enhance the engineering skills in the country.
- Civil Engineering students from Technikons and Universities are offered in-service training from ARRUP and Cabinet Projects. Schools are visited with the aim to encourage scholars to consider careers in engineering and take science and mathematics.
- In another move to attract schools in Civil Engineering, my Department has become the main sponsor of the annual bridge building competition organized by the Civil Engineering of South Africa (CESA) in the Pietermaritzburg region.
- Our bursary committee awards financial assistance to students at university levels who are pursuing fields of Technical and Civil engineering. These programmes are 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.
- Technikon and University students have been awarded bursaries and we have 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. I am appealing to other students to make use of this opportunity and apply for financial assistance.

- In terms of Zibambele programme, there are more than 7 500 Zibambele contractors who are youth. Some of these have had their education up to grade 12 and have passed maths and science. The Department intends to assist these youth in acquiring the necessary skills. Our youth is also encouraged to participate in other EPWP projects such as Siyazenzela Waste Management and during road construction.
- Hundreds of students have participated in the Student Driver Education project targeting Grades 11 and 12 learners. The aim of the project is assist school learners to obtain drivers licences while at school.
- In conclusion, as young people you must take responsibility to determine your destiny, you must refuse to be distracted by the ordinary things that attract the youth.
- More than ever before, the challenges of reconstruction and development in our country cannot be tackled effectively without a deepened understanding of strategic societal issues.
- We must have a deep understanding of globalisation and other related global challenges that have a bearing on our country, and indeed, our continent's development trajectory.

I thank you