



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B. H. CELE DURING THE
SIYAZENZEALA LAUNCH AT UMSUNDUZI ON MONDAY, 10 MARCH 2008**

All Protocol Observed

- ? One of the challenges we have had to deal with since the advent of democracy is unemployment.
- ? In its 2002 policy conference, the ANC resolved that there should be large-scale expansion of the use of labour intensive construction methods to alleviate unemployment and to meet infrastructure backlogs in previously disadvantaged areas. Thus was born the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).
- ? In 2004, Government committed to creating one million job opportunities through the EPWP, an initiative to bridge the gap between the growing economy and the large numbers of unskilled and unemployed people who have yet to fully enjoy the benefits of economic development.

- ? Today we are launching Siyazenzela Programme in the Umsunduzi Municipality, an initiative that seeks to alleviate poverty while raising environment awareness in our communities. It is a programme modeled from the Curitiba – Brazil, “Garbage that is not Garbage programme”, whereby poor households exchange waste for food parcels.
- ? We are launching for the second time as we have piloted in the Hibiscus Coast Municipality. Our intention is to see it being rolled out to all municipalities in the province. This is all in the quest to intensify our fight against poverty.
- ? There is no doubt that the Local Government sphere, which is at the coalface of delivery, will be a key role player in the alleviation of poverty and unemployment. The framework for implementing the EPWP recognises the respective responsibility and roles that the provincial and local spheres of government must play.
- ? The framework establishes a unique protocol, consistent with co-operative governance, within which the department and the relevant municipalities can achieve the stated government objectives of reducing poverty and uniting social services to the poor and combating under development.
- ? This is done by a government which has decided to work for all its citizens, without any consideration of political affiliation. Only a government led by the people, for the people, has always ensured that people’s lives change for the better.
- ? In handing over this project today, we are reconfirming our commitment to making the required impact in the lives of our people in all corners of the province of KwaZulu Natal.

- ? Already we are able to see the benefits of this post 1994 democracy. The economy has grown, albeit relatively slowly.
- ? Accordingly the Umsunduzi Municipality will undertake this project that we are handing over today with a view to enhancing the livelihoods of communities under its jurisdiction.
- ? To this end, 50 beneficiaries have been selected and are undergoing process of signing contracts binding them for a period of 1 month. These include 37 women, 25 youth and 13 others.
- ? In conclusion, we all know that already this month, we have lost many people on our roads in this province. I would not like to dwell much on the numbers of accidents and fatalities we have had so far. Anyway, statistics don't die, people die on the roads.
- ? As we head towards the Easter Holidays, I would like to urge all communities to play an active role in spreading the message of safety on our roads. We all have to work tirelessly to ensure that South Africa becomes a better place for all and reducing unnecessary suffering on our roads is fundamental.

I thank you.