



**SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON, MR. B.H. CELE DURING THE
TRANSPORT MONTH LAUNCH ON THURSDAY , 02 OCTOBER 2008.**

All Protocol Observed.

- It has become a trend that the Month of October is declared as National Transport Month which looks into perspectives on our transport systems. This year we look into our transport system beyond 2010. On Tuesday we launched our Transport Month nationally and today we have a provincial launch.
- Our Government is viewing the World Cup as a major revolution in South Africa's transports system. Long after the 2010 FIFA World Cup, our transport systems should be able to sustain our economy. The investments we are making in transport services and infrastructure should benefit the rest of the province and indeed, our country.
- In the history of South Africa, we are having major investments across all transport systems – buses – passenger rail, taxis – road networks and the aviation industry is also rising to the occasion – which represents a wide spread development ever seen in our country.

- Our underlying assumption in all this is our commitment to ensure safe, effective, efficient and affordable transport system for our people beyond 2010.
- As Government we are confident that our Public Transport strategy will go a long way in addressing urban based and remote rural areas of our people.
- The KZN Department of Transport has a major transport investment that will create a lasting legacy after the World Cup. To highlight some of the milestones that will see our transport systems efficient post the FIFA 2010 World Cup, today we are launching the Transport Academy for KwaZulu-Natal.
- Ladies and gentlemen, the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) has given us a clear picture of the shortcomings in our transport systems. The NHTS revealed that in South Africa:
 - More than 38 million citizens live in household with no access to a car
 - 14million learners walk to school
 - More than 13.7 million citizens use public transport at least once a week
 - More than 7million workers and learners use public transport and about
 - 7 million citizens use a car
- These figures reflect that as Government we need to do a lot of work to ensure that our transport infrastructure and services serve and address the challenges that our people are facing.
- The idea of having this academy shows that KZN Department of Transport is providing the public with safe, integrated and accessible transportation

system, and ensuring that, in delivering on our mandate, we meet development needs of our province.

- It is generally felt that the training of Taxi Drivers, Taxi Owners, Bus drivers and Truck Drivers will improve the quality of service delivery in the province and beyond.
- Practical driver training will be conducted at Department of Transport's Road Traffic Inspectorates. The training will be rolled out to all four regions - Pietermaritzburg, Durban, Empangeni and Ladysmith.
- Competent candidates will receive certificates of competency endorsed by KZNDōE, KZNDōT and TETA. A successful participant will receive an Identity card as a recognized Driver or Taxi Owner for display in a taxi or Office or truck, whichever is applicable. Commuters will ultimately look for this evidence for Quality assurance. These certificates will expire after an agreed period thus calling for a refresher course or advanced training.
- During the October Month, the KZN Department of Transport will be having numerous activities in various communities in the province. The activities include our Operation Kushunquthuli, Asiphephe Campaign and the launch of Public Transport Facilities.
- We are strengthening our commitment to bring hope to those communities most in need so that they too can have just cause to celebrate a better life for all.
- In conclusion ladies and gentlemen, government is committed to see future growth in the economy through efficiency in the transport sector. I want to urge Government and the private sector to work together and overcome the challenges that impede growth in the transport sector.

I thank you