



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. B.H. CELE DURING THE  
TRANSPORT MONTH AT UMSINGA ON FRIDAY 03 OCTOBER 2008.**

**All Protocol Observed.**

- Since 2005, 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 yesterday we had 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.
- But we want to ensure that while our focus is on 2010 and beyond, we will continue to provide access to our rural communities who may not be affected directly by 2010 projects in terms of economic benefit. There is no doubt therefore that Umsinga and Umzinyathi District as a whole stand to benefit in this regard.
- The KZN Department of Transport has allocated more than R120 million in 2008/2009 financial year to deal with the service delivery challenges in this District.

- It was this time last year when we launched our ‘Operation Kushunquthuli’ here at Umsinga. In this Operation 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.
- We know that Umsinga was declared as one of the areas in the province that are faced with enormous poverty and unemployment.
- I am therefore delighted that today another milestone is recorded in the lives of people of Umsinga, as we do the sod turning to mark the beginning of the construction of Nxamalala Extension, Mbangweni Road and Mvundlwini Road. The estimated cost of these projects is R28 million.
- But, I want to emphasize that when we bring these projects we do it for people irrespective of which political party they belong to. Our government’s policy says that during the construction work, cost must remain an economic benefit to the communities that project will serve.
- It has come to my attention that in some areas people are requested to produce membership cards for political parties before they are employed for these projects. But I want to warn you as communities also not to allow yourselves to be manipulated by politicians who use your weakness for their political gain.
- When the democratic government took over in 1994, the challenge was not only to address historical imbalances but also to face new challenges imposed by globalization; challenges such as crime, AIDS, poverty, unemployment etc. It is in this context that we set our selves a goal of achieving a better life for all.

- However, a better life will not just float in a foundation-less space. It is based on certain fundamentals and preconditions. Preconditions for a better life include peace, democracy and development.
- This is not the first time we have government in the history of South Africa and KwaZulu-Natal in particular. But our people have only begun to see change in their lives through our democratic government's development programmes.
- On completion, these roads will be maintained by our Zibambele road maintenance programme, which will also create more employment opportunities for impoverished women.
- In conclusion, I want to emphasise that corruption and fraud will not be tolerated in this programme; most of all stealing against poor women is being greedy and will not be tolerated.
- We must take politics out of this programme. Contractors must be identified and selected on the basis of poverty in their community.

**I thank you.**