



**SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. BHEKI CELE AT THE OPENING
LAUNCH OF THE WEIGH BRIDGE AT GINGINDLOVU ON TUESDAY, 07
OCTOBER 2008**

All Protocol Observed.

- As a transport family, we all know that since 2005, this month of October is declared as National Transport Month. This year we look into our transport system beyond 2010.
- 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.
- But we want to ensure that while our focus is on 2010 and beyond, we continue to provide transport infrastructure in our areas that may not be affected directly by 2010 projects.
- It is on that score that today we are here to open our Traffic Control Centre (TCC) which includes the weighbridge. The majority of the provincial weighbridges are located in close proximity to the N2 and N3 corridors, thus ensuring overloading control on these corridors and very little enforcement is done on the provincial road network which is our primary responsibility.

- According to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the average overloading countrywide is approximately 20% and the road damage caused by the overloaded trucks is 60%. It thus makes sense that to control overloading on our roads is a very high priority to safeguard the life expectancy of our roads.
- After a mobile weighbridge survey was conducted at this area the location was identified as carrying an unacceptable (45%) number of overloaded vehicles thus causing considerable road damage to the existing road network. The traffic volumes also indicated a high percentage of heavy vehicles in the area.
- If the existing trend of overloading continued, the roads in the area would deteriorate to such an extent that it would require re-construction of the roads and not just conventional maintenance.
- Overloaded vehicles are also a road safety hazard for other road users due to the reduced braking capacity and stability of the vehicles. It was for these reasons that we have constructed a Traffic Control Centre (TCC) at Gingindlovu, not only to weigh vehicles but to be able to check the vehicle brakes, general vehicle condition together with driver compliance.
- The cost of the entire project was R10.5 million and was completed in August 2008. The National DoT used to fund the construction of weighbridges but due to financial constraints in the National Overloading Control Funds (NOCF), Provinces were advised that they would have to fund their own construction of weighbridges.

- As KZN Department of Transport, we therefore included in our budget for a two year period the funding for the construction of the Gingindlovu TCC.
- In conclusion, the Department believes that the construction of the Gingindlovu TCC will help to reduce the overloading in the area thereby improving vehicle safety for all road users and to extend the life of the road infrastructure in the area.

I thank you