



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIASON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE OPENNING
OF THE MONDLO MINE ROAD ON TUESDAY, 07 APRIL 2009.**

Protocol Observed

- Our government regards the provision of access as a fundamental component of economic reconstruction and development. It is on that score that the Department of Transport committed itself that the Mondlo Mine access road be upgraded to a well engineered gravel road standard, in order to promote job opportunities through mining in the area.
- It all started in August 1997 when communities from Mondlo, Vryheid, Mahlabathini, eDumbe, Nongoma, etc met and formed a committee to represent these areas in the idea of re-opening mines in and around the Vryheid area, which had been closed prior to the 1994 elections.
- The Department of transport supported the initiative of re-opening mines around Vryheid, as it is the Department's intention to help emerging merchants to realize their aspirations in terms of economic development in the province.

- The total length of the road is 7km; the first phase of construction commenced in March 2006 and the duration was 2 months. The expenditure totaled to R 1.2 million. The second phase of the project commenced in February 2008 and the duration was 2 months at the tune of R 2.1 million.
- From the geological reports, eNgunjini mine has a life span of ten years but the committee has received the extension of another ten years from the Department of Minerals and Energy so to say they will mine for over twenty years.
- About 200 local people will get job opportunities on the opening of the mine, for a period of about 20 years, not only general labourers will benefit from the project but also skilled people like e.g. Tradesmen and Artisans. Local suppliers will also benefit from the project as the coal mine will be closer to them, they will not buy from other towns.
- As a democratically elected government we have an obligation to serve our people irrespective of which political party they belong to. 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.
- We know that Zululand is one of the areas in the province where people still travel kilometers on foot to the nearest clinic, hospital, school, pension payout and have to undress everyday to cross rivers. It is on that score that the Department of Transport has invested R1,5 billion in this District to deal with infrastructure challenges under Operation Kushunquthuli.

- We have injected cash in projects that include, among others, D1820, D487, P700, P432, P235/ P49/ P52, P234, Umbhudula Road Qwasha River Road Bridge, Mpembeni, Sikhwebezi Pedestrian Bridge, Thombothi River Bridge, Obivane River Bridge, Wela River Bridge, KwaBhanya Vehicle Bridge, Intethe River Bridge and Nsonyane Bridge.
- Indeed, our people are now on record saying that they have only begun to see change in their lives through our democratic government's development programmes.
- May I take this opportunity to congratulate the community of Zululand District on all the road and bridge projects they have received and yet to receive.

I thank you