



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B.H. CELE DURING UMSINGA
PROJECTS DAY ON SATURDAY, 18 APRIL 2009**

All Protocol Observed

- Our coming here today confirms that as a democratically elected government, we do follow up on our promises. I do not have to mention how many times we have come to this area of Umsinga.
- We acknowledge that it is you, the voting public, who gave our democratically elected government the mandate to use its budgets to devise innovative investment strategies to secure equity and the abolition of poverty in a transparent and accountable manner.
- This is a non negotiable. If our budgets are not reaching grassroots communities and making a real tangible difference in the lives of poor people - who are our majority citizens and our majority voters - then we, as government, will have failed in the mandate we have been given by the people of South Africa.
- It is true that the bridges and access roads are central to the provision of access and the improvement of the quality of lives of our people. Indeed in communities where these were constructed, people bear testimony of how much improved their lives have been.

- I am therefore delighted that today another milestone is recorded in the lives of people of Umsinga, as we officially open five projects that have been completed and do the sod turning to mark the beginning of the construction of access road.
- We congratulate the people of Msinga who now have access to schools, hospitals, clinics and police stations among other things.
- D1273 was upgraded from June 2008 to March 2009 to the value of R53 million. Dicky Pedestrian Bridge was constructed between April 2006 and November 2007 at the cost of R5,2 million. Zonyama Local Road was constructed between January 2008 and August 2008 at the cost of R18,5 million. Ezingulubeni Local Road constructed between June 2007 and July 2008 to the value of R3,3 million. Main Road P32 was upgraded fromat the cost of R20,2 million.
- The total value of these projects is R100,2 million. We are also injecting R5.3 million for the construction of Ezibomvini Road which will be 4,7 km in length.
- As the MEC for Transport in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, I have a political mandate of ensuring that we restore the dignity of female teachers and learners who have to undress when they cross rivers. I have a political mandate of ensuring that no individual or organisations will stop us from bringing infrastructure to our people.
- As the term of this government under the leadership of the Premier Sbu Ndebele comes to an end this month, I wish to congratulate all of you who have benefited from the government's programmes.

- I also wish to thank all our stakeholders who have always ensured that we move to the same direction as a transport family since my tenure of office. *Imisebenzi iyabonakala.*
- Indeed, 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.
- In conclusion, we will try to address the backlog to the best of our abilities in the spirit of Operation Kushunquthuli and ultimately so that the quality of lives of the people of KwaZulu- Natal is better than yesterday and their tomorrow is better than today.
- The R9 billion infrastructure investment and the recruitment of more than 40 000 Zibambele contractors who have saved more than R9 million in the province for the past five years show that indeed, '*sibuyisela okwabantu kubantu, imisebenzi iyabonakala*'.

I thank you