



SPEECH NOTES BY KZN MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. BHEKI CELE AT THE SOD TURNING OF NTEMBISWENI LOCAL ROAD ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2009.

Protocol observed

- Our gathering here today for the sod turning is indicative of the fact that our government has ears to listen. As a democratically elected government we respond to the needs of our communities. We do that irrespective of which political party those people belong to.
- Today we are responding to a request by the community that a local road be constructed that will provide linkage between the areas of Entembisweni, Mdlalanto, Greytown and Seven Oakes areas. The total cost of the project is estimated at R30 million. The proposed length is 19km. The projected duration of the project is 10 months.
- Vukuzakhe Contractors will be utilised for the construction of the road and about 40 locals will get job opportunities. Approximately 38 locals will be recruited in Zibambele Poverty Alleviation Programme, so that they can perform maintenance on the road. Umvoti Municipality now has about 990 Zibambele contractors. The Department has spent R5,4 million in this programme.

- There are five schools (Entembisweni Primary School, Candabuthule High School, Ntandoyethu Lower Primary School, Mgaga Primary School, Ndubazi Primary School) and one clinic (Entembisweni Clinic) that will benefit through the construction of this local road.
- The road will serve over 150 households with a population of over 1500 people. The road is anticipated to serve traffic volumes of not less than 70 vehicles per day. Many residents had to leave this area due to violence that erupted some years ago. Therefore, constructing this road will encourage the residents that migrated to other areas to return to their properties.
- There is also agricultural potential which will materialise once the road is constructed and the Department of Agriculture will use the road to access residents interested in agriculture.
- This road will also shorten the distance travelled on foot to get public transport.
- This is not the first time we have government in the history of South Africa and KwaZulu-Natal in particular. But our people where these infrastructure projects were constructed bear testimony of how much improved their lives have been.
- In conclusion, despite the limited funding, 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.

I thank you