



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B.H. CELE DURING THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF P32 AND SOD TURNING FOR NYONYANA
ROAD IN UMSINGA ON SATURDAY, 04 APRIL 2009**

All Protocol Observed

- In the past financial years we have dedicated our budget two things. We have dedicated it to road safety because the Department of Transport has a constitutional responsibility to ensure that our people have a safe and reliable transport system in the province.
- Another focal point of our budget has been the road infrastructure development - the building of access roads, the building of pedestrian bridges, the building of vehicle bridges, particularly in the rural areas. All this is done under 'Operation KuShunquthuli'.
- This operation is not about building roads with dust. It means that while our country's focus is on transport system for 2010, as the Department of Transport we want to ensure that we continue to provide transport infrastructure to our rural communities who may not be affected directly by 2010 projects.

- Since we launched the 'Operation KuShunquthuli', we have done many sod turnings all over the province for projects to be that have been completed.
- It is on that score that on the 25th of January 2008 we were here to turn the sod for the upgrading of P32. I said that I will be back to officially open this road.
- I know that the official openings and sod turnings that we do now coincide with election campaigns, but we say elections or no elections our task is to follow-up on our commitments.
- 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.
- The construction of P32 has had a major impact on a large community of KwaMajozi who now have access to four schools, one hospital, one police station and one clinic. The total value of the project is R20,2 million.
- I am also 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 Nyonyana Road which is a link road between Road L 1906 and KwaZenzele Road.

- The total value of this project is R10,1 million. The construction of this link road will provide easy access to for mobile clinic, pension paypoints, furniture vehicles and hearses since it will shorten the distance to get to places like Pomeroy, Tugela Ferry, Dundee, etc, especially for the people of KwaGede area.
- 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. You can speak to our 3 258 Zibambele contractors who are maintaining our roads under Umzinyathi District.
- In closing, it is important that we emphasise road safety because it has become clear that there is no use to build roads that will kill our people. We need to strengthen our road safety awareness campaigns wherever we are, so that we build roads in order to develop people, and not to kill them.
- As we head towards Easter, let us all be responsible on our roads. Live and let live.

I thank you.