



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B.H. CELE DURING THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF P549 AT MATIMATOLO ON TUESDAY, 20
JANUARY 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.
- From last year we started an initiative where we visit families who are victims of road accidents. There you can see the impact of fatalities on people left behind. These accidents kill people who are economically active.
- 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 completed by the end of March 2009 – the end of financial year.
- It is on that score that on the 3rd of August 2008 we were here to turn the sod for the upgrading of this road. I said that I will be back before the end of March this year to officially open this road.
- I know that the official openings and sod turnings that we will have in the next three months will coincide with election campaigns, but 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.

- This road will serve the community residing on the Matimatolo area which consists of the following: Four primary schools with approximately 250 learners; three high schools with approximately 600 pupils; over 4 000 households and over 20 000 persons.
- It is continually upgraded to blacktop surface for every consecutive financial year, such that this financial year (2008/2009) the eight kilometres has been completed at tune of R30 million. The total length of the road is 50 km and is to be completed by 2011. The total amount that will be invested is R177,5 million.
- The total investment by the Department in this area is R225,1 million. I am also pleased to learn that Umvoti Municipality now has 990 Zibambele contractors. The Department has spent R5,4 million in this programme. We must take politics out of this programme. Contractors must be identified and selected on the basis of poverty in their community.
- Finally, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the community of Umzinyathi District on all road and bridge projects they have received and yet to receive.

I thank you.