

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR MEC SASEKANI MANZINI FOR THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF RONALDSEY FOOTBRIDGE AND
DONATION OF BICYCLES**

The Executive Mayor of Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Your worship, cllr
J. Sidell

The Executive Mayor of Bohlabela Local Municipality, Your worship, cllr
S. Nxumalo

Councillors from both Ehlanzeni District and Bohlabela Local
Municipality

Officials from all government departments

Bukhosibaka Nkuna

The Department is happy to be here to hand over a footbridge to the
community of Ronaldsey near Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge Local
Municipality.

We all know that the community at Ronaldsey village was disconnected
from the rest of the other villages and during rainy seasons, they could
not access basic services such as clinics, schools and other economic
activities.

The Department intervened through the Integrated Rural Mobility and
Access Project (IRMA) programme. This is a programme aimed to
improve the livelihood of rural communities through provision of
infrastructures such as footbridge, roads and bus shelters.

The construction of the project benefitted the local people because seventeen (17) people were employed in the process. The construction of the bridge started in October 2014 and ended in July 2015.

We all know that the major problem in South Africa is unemployment, poverty and inequality, so all that we do, we try to create jobs

We will also be donating at least 1087 bicycles to Bohlabela district.

A total of 35 schools within the district will receive the bicycles. One of the school is Mbandule High School, which is set to get thirty (30) bicycles.

Out of the total figure of bicycles (1087), the National Department will donated 87 to Makhosana Manzi High School.

The criteria for selection includes:

- are from low income(poor) families
- have no access to public transport
- cannot afford the costs of public transport
- walk 3 kilometres per day as single trip to the school
- are between grade 3 and grade 12

- understand the basics of Road Safety Education and
- Have the capability to ride the bicycles

The donations forms part of the Shova Kalula bicycles projects, which is national initiative aimed to provide mobility to learners who walk more than 3km to school and do not benefit from scholar transport.

Program Director, I am glad our people know that the good work of the ANC government especially here in Bohlabela Municipality does not start and end today, with this bridge. As I speak to you the ANC government through our department is doing the following:

- Finalising the Mpumalanga Traffic College
- Constructing Arconhoek Library
- Renovating Leroro Public Library
- Constructing toilets in different schools to comply with the norm and standards
- Upgrading of a Rural Access Road D3968 between R40 Junction (near Bushbuckridge) and Rolle via Merry Pebble (Phase 1) (10km)
- Upgrading: D4383 km 4.9 - 14.1 from P33/5 (R536) to D4382 near Justicia & Lilydale (9.2km)
- Upgrading: D3969 km 13.82 - 16.92 and D4385 km 0 - 4.9 from D4381 (Kildare) to D4382 Justicia & Lilydale (8.0 km)
- Reconstruction of a Flood Damaged Bridge on Road D4392 (Near Dumphries)

Executive Mayor this excludes the millions we spend annually subsidising our people who travel using The Great North Transport.

As I conclude, I want to request our people not to burn public infrastructure when protesting or angry against the government.

This infrastructure belongs to you and not the government.

I also request you to drive safely and make it everybody's responsibility that our public transport system is safe.

Thank you!