



NEWS EDITOR

MEDIA STATEMENT

19 October 2016

TRANSPORT MONTH ACTIVITIES MOVES TO A HIGHER GEAR

On Monday 24 October 2016, as part of series of events to mark October Transport Month, The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Sasekani Manzini will officially open and hand over Ronaldsey footbridge. Many communities living in rural areas in Mpumalanga are faced with the challenge of mobility and access to social amenities due to lack of road infrastructure linking communities. In this regard, accessibility to basic services such as clinics, schools, graveyards etc continues to be a headache for rural communities.

It is against this backdrop that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport through the Integrated Rural Mobility and Access Project (IRMA) programme continues to make timely interventions to improve the livelihood of rural citizens through the provision of infrastructure such as the footbridges and roads.

Ronaldsey is a impoverished rural village in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. People living in this village had serious challenges of mobility and access to social amenities, especially in rainy seasons. Learners would literally not go to school during rainy season because it was a risk, as the river would be flooded.

Realising this plight, The Department invested more than (R7) Seven Million for the construction of a footbridge. During construction, 17 local people were employed and trained in various construction skills. On the same day, MEC will also donate bicycles to learners attending various schools in the Bushbuckridge area. The donation forms part of the Shova

Kalula programme, which aims to provide mobility to learners who do not benefit from scholar transport.

The department will continue with the month long October Transport Month activities. On the 25-26 October 2016 MEC Manzini will convene the EPWP Summit which will conclude with hosting the 7th Provincial Kamoso Awards. The last activity would be the sod turning of road D236 in Barberton in the City of Mbombela.

Members of the media are therefore invited.

Ends.

For more information, kindly contact Mr David Nkambule on (013) 766-6553 or 071-608-1059

