MEDIA RELEASE

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MEC BARRY TO LAUNCH MAKANA EPWP PROJECTS

As part of her 2010 October Transport Month Programme, the Eastern Cape MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison Ghishma Barry will officially open the Makana sidewalks and Junior Traffic Training Centre on Monday the 25th of October 2010 at Noluthando Community Hall, Joza Location, Grahamstown at 09am.

Having being faced with the challenge of not having sidewalks on the MR486 that connects the Joza location to Grahamstown for pedestrians, the area compelled the community of Joza to walk in the roadway with the associated traffic, thus bringing about pedestrian/vehicle conflicts resulting to pedestrian fatalities.

A decision was taken by the Community Based Transportation Programme that sidewalks would be implemented, designed and constructed using labour intensive methods of construction, where local labour was employed and trained on sidewalks construction by the department.

The objective of this project was to move pedestrians off the roads so that pedestrian fatalities and incidents can be minimized, as well as creating employment and transfer skills to the community of Joza Location through following the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) principles to ensure maximum beneficiation of the community from the project.

A total of 51 people were employed to work on this project for a period of 13 months, 30 were given CETA accredited training on Kerb laying; base layer preparation and premix surfacing, 10 on landscaping and 20 on block paving. The group included 24 youths, and 19 females.

MEC Barry will also launch the Grahamstown Junior Traffic Training Centre on the same day.

Having visited and verified primary schools in the Makana Municipality, the Department has trained local primary school learners.

These centres, which are known as miniature training centres, are build to be an all access area, which are not only meant to educate kids on how to safely cross roads, but to provide them with the insight on how to make use of other service delivery places incl, clinics and post office.

They are targeted at kids between the ages of 8-9 years and are seen as a way of addressing limitations of learners with regard to safe participation and hopefully reduce serious casualties from road crashes.
Their aim is to impart the acquisition of knowledge pertaining to the following:

- Safe Pedestrian Behavior
- Traffic Safety Rules
- Traffic Signs
- Road Markings
- Pedestrians & Driver Skills
- Positive Attitude in Road Usage

Junior Traffic Training Centre

Sidewalk being constructed on the MR486

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