MEDIA RELEASE

2000 EC LEARNERS TO RECEIVE BICYCLES

The National Department of Transport has started the distribution of 2000 bicycles to the Eastern Cape today to contribute in the Provincial Shova Kalula Bicycle Project.

This project assists learners who travel long distances to reach schools to arrive on time. These include learners from rural areas and farm schools.

The Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Transport received the first 500 bicycles for Ukhahlamba District in Aliwal North today.

The remaining number of bicycles will be distributed next week in Alfred Nzo, OR Tambo and Amathole Districts.

Another batch of 1 900 bicycles is expected by November 2008.

In the last financial year, R2.5 million was spent by the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Transport on the acquisition of 5,333 bicycles, school bags and helmets, which were distributed to schools with a particular focus on learners that walk 15 km and longer to reach their schools.

This year, the department has passed its target of distributing 2 110 bicycles to needy schools and 3000 additional bicycles will be procured by November 2008.

A total of 6 containers have been acquired and are fully equipped with spares and equipment that are used as bicycle maintenance shops. These shops will be developed as a further job creation and SMME development initiative in terms of which specifically identified members of the communities will be trained to maintain bicycles and run a bicycle shop for their own account. For this purpose such individuals will receive training and support to manage a business properly.

“This will make a huge difference to those learners who have to walk long distances to access schools and mark the realisation of government’s objective of opening the doors of learning to all,” said Roads and Transport MEC Gloria Barry.

On Monday 02 October 2008, MEC Barry will hand over bicycles to learners from the Amathole District at Ncerha Village outside East London to mark the Launch of the 2008 October Transport Month Campaign.

More bicycles will be handed over on 06 October 2008 at Ikwezi Municipality (Klipplaat and Jansenville), followed by Chris Hani District at Ngcobo on 20 October 2008, Ukhahlamba District at Maclear on 23 October 2008 and OR Tambo at Sulenkama on 25 October 2008.

Issued by:
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