



**Keynote Address by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Transport,
Ms Dikeledi Magadzi (MP) on the occasion of the handover of Shova Kalula Bicycles
to G.S Phoi Secondary School, Madibogopan in North West Province on March 1,
2021**

Programme Director

MEC

Mayor of Ratlou Local Municipality

All Government Officials

The Principal of G.S Phoi

All Teachers Present

Members of the School Governing Body Present

Community Leaders Present

Learners

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

This is the year of Charlotte Maxeke, the 'Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa', as pronounced just last week by government.

She stood not only for the rights of black people colonised, oppressed and exploited, but stood against the discrimination and the oppression of women.

She was also a foremost educationist who in her lifetime served to establish centres of learning.

We thus celebrate Charlotte Maxeke in this year in which we intensify our efforts in education, above all a year in which we intensify efforts against gender based violence.

Human Rights Month

This is especially true of this month, March too, which is our Human Rights Month and thus a month in which we promote human rights and ensure their protection.

It is a month in which we celebrate all those that died in struggles for equal rights for all our people.

Internationally, this is also a month on which on the 9th we celebrate **Women's Rights Day** as declared by the United Nations.

As we celebrate these rights let us place those of women and girls as the most primary rights we shall celebrate, rights we will fiercely protect.

It is therefore the role of male teachers, boys and young men to protect all women, girls and young women who are daily victims of harassment, violence and murder.

25 Years of the Constitution of the Republic

The promotion of human rights and specifically the rights of women and children is even more important in this year in which we celebrate 25 years of our democratic Constitution.

Among actions to promote equality and thus to express our commitment to the rights entailed in our Constitution, we must promote access to education.

COVID 19 and SONA pronouncements on education

The President in delivering the State of the Nation Address (SONA) recognised the devastation that is being caused by the pandemic and made specific reference to effects on education.

The President acknowledged that “of the many hardships our people had to experience last year, schooling disruption placed a huge burden on learners, teachers and families.

It is our priority for this year to regain lost time and improve educational outcomes, from the early years through to high school and post-school education and training, the President said.

To the extent of our commitment to progress, we as President said, must defeat the pandemic.

The President also announced on the roll out of vaccines to inoculate the majority of the population in order to permanently prevent the pandemic’s worst effects.

We are pleased to know that teachers will be vaccinated among the most essential persons of our nation and we will see greater stability in schools.

President Cyril Ramphosa speaking at the 2020 Basic Education Sector Lekgotla stated the following about education and I quote:

We want to ensure that by 2030, South Africans have access to education and training of the highest quality, leading to significantly improved learning outcomes.

The performance of South African learners in international standardised tests should be comparable to the performance of learners from countries at a similar level of development.

All our learners should be able to read for meaning by their tenth birthday.

Our Mathematics and Physical Science pass rates should be comparable with, if not better than, nations of similar size and budget.

We are building an education system that will help free the potential of each of our citizens so that they too can enjoy the dividends of our hard won freedom, unquote.

Purpose of the Visit

While promoting equal access for all in education, we want to ensure that obstacles that affect education are drastically reduced if not completely eliminated.

One of these obstacles has to do with the distance some learners have to walk to school.

It is precisely for this reason that we are visiting G.S Phoi today, to contribute our efforts towards reducing that very burden, the long and at times tiring walk.

Shova Kalula Bicycle Programme

As mentioned earlier the purpose of our visit is to deliver these bicycles to learners identified according to the criteria set for the dispensing of these bicycles.

There is a total 72 210 reported learners that require learner transport in the North West.

In the current financial year, the province targets to transport 63 707 learners which is 88% of the total demand.

As a result, 8 503 learner would not be transported which is 12% of the total demand.

These learners walk more than 5km one way to school on a daily basis which has a detrimental effect on attendance of school and academic performance.

The Shova Kalula National Bicycle Programme is a ministerial initiative of the National Department of Transport to provide low cost mobility solutions to learners and farm workers.

The Shova Kalula (Ride Easy) bicycle programme is a national bicycle programme initiated by the Department of Transport as a pilot project in 2001.

The purposes of the programme include

- The promotion and maximisation of the use of bicycles in poor communities as a cheaper way of travelling particularly in rural areas;
- The promotion of non-motorised transport as a way of dealing with traffic congestion;
- The promotion of overall health and wellness through the use of bicycles; and
- To reduce carbon emissions produced by excessive use of motor vehicles

This programme is especially important given the need to enable underserved communities to participate in socio-economic opportunities, such as schools, through developmental support to vulnerable groups as identified, such as learners and farm workers.

During the pilot phases of the programme, the Department procured and distributed over 180 000 bicycles to learners in all provinces.

It became however also clear that many learners are left out in other schemes learner transport schemes (buses, or other) that require a learner to travel 5 kms to school in order to qualify for scholar transport assistance.

In addition are also aware that due to the uneven development of provinces, some such as the Eastern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal, the Northwest and Limpopo are in greater need of such assistance.

In the next three years, the Department will distribute an estimated 30 000 bicycles to the identified provinces in order to ease the burden associated with long walks to and from school.

The focus of the distribution will be in the four priority provinces, KZN, Limpopo, North West and Eastern Cape as identified.

In the three financial years from 2020/2021 to 2022/2023 as a Department we have committed to a distribution of **30 000 bicycles** across our most needy provinces.

Ours is a government committed to creating the necessary social enablers for social and economic progress.

The Shova Kalula Programme compliments the learner transport programme by focusing on learners who walk less than 5 km and walk more than 3 km to schools.

In the Northwest Province we will in the 2021/2022 financial year distribute 1 750 bicycles to learners.

The number of learners to benefit from the donation of Shova Kalula bicycles at the school is One Hundred and Fifty-Five (155).

These learners walk between 3km to 5km from their home to the school. Learners that walk more than 5km to schools should be included in the learner transport programme.

The Department of Education in the province is responsible for the learner transport programme.

In addition to the bicycles delivered, a bicycle safety training programme is also conducted to ensure that learners are familiarised with road safety rules.

Careers in Transport

Learners,

It is important to note that the Department of Transport and its entities supports educational programmes and career development across the country annually.

Today we will also speak on the different subsectors of transport, our entities in those subsectors and the different careers supported by us, how and where these are offered.

We will also speak of the job opportunities in store in the different subsectors of transport.

Roads and Road Transport

Agencies:

Road Traffic Infringement Agency

Road Traffic Management Corporation

Cross Border Road Traffic Agency

Road Accident Fund

South African National Road Agency Limited

South Africa's Road Network in km (2017):

Authority	Paved	Gravel	Total
SANRAL	22 203	0	21 946
Provinces – 9	46 548	226 273	272 821
Metros – 8	51 682	14 461	66 143
Municipalities	37 691	219 223	256 914
Proclaimed Total	158 124	459 957	618 081
Unproclaimed Total Estimate		131 919	131 919
Total	158 124	591 876	750 000

South Africa has the tenth largest road network in the world and ranks number 18 in the world for paved road network.

Careers and skills in roads:

- Surveyors,
- Civil engineers, and
- Other skills include road traffic management skills

Road Traffic Management

Parents and teachers, the Department of Transport is fast growing a cohort of state of the art traffic police academies that shall endeavour to train and educate highly professional traffic management officials.

One such college has already been launched in Mpumalanga Province and training is ongoing.

Maritime Transport

Learners,

South Africa's coastline is about 3000kms long and its biggest out of the 8 ports we own, Durban handles South Africa's largest share of sea traffic and visited by about **4,500 vessels yearly**.

The Port of Durban conducts trade worth over \$45billion.

This is just one port. Our coastline carries vast potential, which has been identified for rapid results economic development through **Operation Phakisa, the oceans economy**.

Major shipping lanes pass along the South African coastline in the south Atlantic and Indian oceans and approximately 96 percent of South Africa's exports are conveyed by sea.

The eight commercial ports are the conduits for trade between South Africa and its southern African partners as well as hubs for traffic to and from Europe, Asia, the Americas and the east and west coasts of Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the Department of Transport we believe maritime career guidance must be incorporated into the schools and tertiary levels with possibilities for absorption of interns by industry.

We are also to develop a flagship project branded:

“Youth in the Maritime Sector”, which will be pursued as part of developing a long term maritime industry-driven succession plan.

Towards this and other ends we have entered into international and domestic agreements for training maritime transport skills such as with:

- The World Maritime University in Sweden
- International Maritime Law Institute in Malta
- Plymouth University

Locally: Cape Peninsular University of Technology, and the Durban University of Technology as well as the Nelson Mandela University

Maritime Transport Careers and Skills

- Hydrography,
- Meteorology,
- Naval Architecture,
- Maritime Economics, and
- Many more enticing careers and skills in that sector, including different engineers and technicians.

Rail

Agencies:

Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa

Rail Safety Regulator

The South African rail network is the 11th largest in the world at 22 298 route kilometres and a track distance of 30 400 kms.

There is ongoing large scale overhaul of passenger rail with a fleet renewal programme of 7200 new trains managed by PRASA. This will

involve the revitalisation of this industry through local manufacturing and supply of components.

This will also involve upgrades to the rail network to allow for new coaches with upgraded features.

Skills that will be required in Rail include:

- Train drivers,
- Train control officers,
- Rail engineers,
- Artisans, and rail technicians among others.

The Transnet School of Rail offers these courses.

The PRASA new training centre in Dunnator in Ekurhuleni will contribute to the skills development in rail.

Aviation Agencies:

South African Civil Aviation Authority

Airports Company South Africa

Air Traffic Navigation Services

The Economic Importance of Air Travel

In South Africa before the Covid pandemic outbreak air transportation supported **490 000 jobs and US\$12bn and an equivalent of 170 billion rands a year** towards our Gross domestic product (GDP), which is civil aviation's contribution to the value of all economic activity in South Africa.

We have hope that with global trends towards vaccination the industries in air transport will again rise.

Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) is an entity of the Department of Transport responsible for managing the country's airports.

Recognition by global institutions through audits of South Africa's aviation safety and security has proven our capability and commitment to produce the highest standards.

This will require a sustained development of skills and support for aviation academies. We will require more:

Pilots,

- **Aeronautical engineers,**
- **Air traffic controllers,**
- **Air traffic navigators, and other aviation professionals.**

Careers in Transport and Admission Requirements

The following are some examples of other careers that exist within the transport sector.

- Road, Rail, Aviation and Maritime Technical Expertise
- Maritime Search and Rescue
- Transport Planning
- Transport Economics
- Specialisations in Land and Public Transport
- Freight Logistics
- Transport Management

These specialised options in transport careers demand the following school subjects:

- Mathematics (Pure) for technical areas
- Physical science
- Geography
- English
- Economics

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Institutions of Learning

The higher learning institutions that directly share our skills development goals include the following:

- University of Johannesburg (UJ)
- Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)
- North West University (NWU)
- University of South Africa (UNISA)
- Cape Peninsular University of Technology (CPTU)
- University of Cape Town (UCT)
- University of Stellenbosch (SU)
- University of Fort Hare (UFH)
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University of Technology (NMMU)
- Durban University of Technology (DUT)
- University of Zululand (UNIZULU)

And we should be reminded that by skills we do not mean only how you produce for someone. It could also mean the business skills that you use to provide people with a service or a product.

Financial Assistance and Enrolment

Programme Director,

We believe that resources should always be in place to assist those who want to better their chances in the economy.

To that extent we have continued to fund many cohorts of students every year for studies in transport.

Some students have already completed their studies in some of these fields and others:

- **National Diploma in Transport Management**
- **BCom Transport Economics**
- **BTech Transport Economics BCom Logistics**
- **BCom Hon Logistics**
- **National Diploma in Transport Logistics**
- **Diploma in Transport Management**
- **National Diploma in civil Engineering**
- **Masters in Engineering**
- **PhD in Engineering**
- **Masters in Engineering (Transport) and**
- **Others.**

These are offered at the partner institutions I have mentioned.

There are however critically important skills required with greater urgency and therefore immediate. These include:

Other Partnerships

Equally important is that we have also gotten into partnerships with Technical Schools, TVET Colleges and the Transport Education and Training Authority TETA in order to expand our options beyond universities.

The TETA has gotten into further agreements with institutions such as the WITS Business School and the Pi Company for the International Leadership Development Programme based in South Africa and the Netherlands.

In addition, the TETA has partnered with the Belgian Technical Agency for Integrated Logistics and Ports Management.

In the 2016 and 2017 academic years 22 engineers were receiving training in Ahlstrom in Europe and Brazil and 14 post-graduate students have been sent to World Maritime University (WMU) in Sweden.

Learners,

The South African Maritime Authority (SAMSA) an entity of the Department of transport has entered into partnerships with the Department of Basic Education for the development of maritime oriented vocational studies. This is offered at assumption of grade nine or grade ten.

Other opportunities are in the form of internships and placement's in environments of actual work.

Skills remain key to making South Africa a dynamic country that will be able to compete with other countries on a level footing.

Health Security and Hygiene

Let us continue to wash our hands, wear masks, and keep the social distance, so that our families, neighbours and friends can be protected against infection and illness.

I thank you

Stay safe and stay healthy.