

# KwaZulu-Natal roads benefit from 30 new Bell Graders

**Embracing the theme for national Transport Month, “Together we move South Africa forward”, Bell Equipment handed over thirty Bell 670G Graders to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport in Pietermaritzburg at the end of October 2015.**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, said the Graders have been allocated to the various regions in the province and would be used to keep the province’s 23 960km gravel road network in a safe and acceptable state to further improve the quality of life for rural communities.

In the last five years the Department has emerged as a top performer having upgraded 457 kilometres of gravel to tar roads, rehabilitated or re-tarred 1 859 kilometres and resealed more than 10 million square metres of the road network. The Department also constructed 1 569 kilometres of new gravel roads along with 28 vehicle and 61 pedestrian bridges.

Managing Director of Bell Equipment Sales Africa, Bokkie Coertze said the handover marks a progression in the relationship between the company and the Department. “We no longer regard ourselves as a supplier to the Department; this is an alliance in our view. Besides successfully tendering for and being awarded the contract to supply and deliver these 30 Graders, we are already engaged in training Department of Transport apprentices who will ensure that these machines help the Department to deliver on their mandate.

“We understand that the Department’s mandate is the effective management of its road infrastructure network through the planning, construction, repair and maintenance of a balanced road network that supports the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy. As a responsible corporate citizen of KwaZulu-Natal, Bell supports nearly 1 000 suppliers in the province and through these Graders we pledge our support to this strategy and are confident that together we can achieve this objective.”

Bokkie also expressed appreciation to the Department for its commitment to the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, which aims to encourage localisation and preference for locally manufactured products in support of creating and sustaining local jobs. “We have already applied to have some of our products that have a high local content, to be designated for procurement by the various organs of state. Trade and Industry Minister, Dr Rob Davies is on record indicating that these products have received Government’s support for designation and all that is awaited are the instruction notes from National Treasury. It is our hope that this will spur some of our competitors to make the necessary manufacturing investments in South Africa which will in turn translate to more quality and sustainable jobs. Manufacturing is the backbone of any economy.”



*Mayor of the Umgungundlovu District Municipality, Cllr Yusuf Bamjee joins Managing Director of Bell Equipment Sales Africa, Bokkie Coertze and KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu as they cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially mark the handover of the 30 Bell Graders to the Department of Transport.*



*KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu is presented with a model Bell Articulated Dump Truck by Managing Director of Bell Equipment Sales Africa, Bokkie Coertze. With them are Cllr Yusuf Bamjee, Mayor of Umgungundlovu District Municipality (left); Bruce Paterson, Bell Equipment Regional Manager of Coastal Region (back) and Philani Gumbi, Bell Equipment Public Sector Sales Manager.*



*Grader Operator, Fisani Ntombela, gives KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, a quick lesson before he powers up the Bell 670G Grader.*

