



GAUTENG PROVINCE

ROADS AND TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEECH

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MEC Vadi donates 150 learners to Lawley Primary School Learners

As a caring government that listens to the concerns of our people, we heeded your plea to assist learners who walk long distances to school.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to be here today to witness the donation of 150 bicycles to the learners as part of the Shovakalula Bicycle Project. The project is a national initiative by the Department of Transport that seeks to provide ease of mobility to learners walking over 3km between home and school.

Furthermore, this is part of the provincial government's commitment to promoting cycling as a mode of transport. The project's objective is aimed at maximizing the use of non-motorized transport to enable communities to access social opportunities.

It is also consistent with the provincial strategy, which states the Gauteng city-region will make the transition towards clean, innovative, resource efficient, low carbon technologies and infrastructure.

The project also seeks to promote cycling as a low cost mobility solution to low income households, targeting mainly scholars. Our ultimate goal is to see cycling becoming transport mode of choice.

To date, the project has donated over thirty thousand bicycles throughout Gauteng to learners who meet the set qualification criteria to alleviate their mobility constraints and provide ease of access to learning institutions.

We would like to see the number of people who use bicycles as a mode of transport growing. Cycling is a healthy, low-impact exercise that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, from young children to older adults. It is also fun, cheap and good for the environment. It further gives you an opportunity to use the bicycles as both transport and sport.

We hope by making the bicycles available to learners, we will assist in combating frequent absenteeism and exhaustion experienced by walking long distances. Furthermore, cycling contributes to reducing air pollution and carbon emissions.

Our humble plea to you is that you should behave on the road, obey the rules of the road and to look after and clean the bicycles.

For media enquiries, kindly contact Ms Melitah Madiba on 011 355 7093 or 060 520 1820