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Members of the Department of Transport seen with Ward 49 Councillor Tino Pillay and Palmcroft Primary School principal, Dr Bipath

'Walking School Bus Project' rolled out in Ward 49

The safety of learners at Palmcroft Primary in Ward 49 has been hugely boosted by the school signing up for the 'Walking School Bus Project', a pilot project initiated by the Department of Transport in KwaZulu-Natal.

The project was rolled out on Monday, 7 August, by the Transport Road Safety Directorate within the Durban region. A Walking School Bus is a group of learners who walk to and from school along a safe and enjoyable set route escorted by Walking School Bus attendants.

Ward 49 Councillor Tino Pillay who welcomed the project, said: "Palmcroft Primary School which operated the scholar patrol for many years and was also implemented by the Department of Transport, has now been converted to the Walking School Bus, operating on one route with three attendants. The Attendants are contracted to the

Department via the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)."

He said the learners board the bus under supervision at designated stops and walk from their homes to and from school. "The service is free and is offered to foundation phase learners, who have not yet developed the necessary road safety skills to walk without adult supervision. The Walking School Bus is organised with a specified route with designated pick-up or drop-off times. This programme will not only be a great benefit to learners in terms of minimising accidents but also instil road safety knowledge to create safe road usage," said Cllr Pillay.

Dr Bipath, the school principal, also welcomed the project and thanked all the stakeholders involved in bringing the project to the Phoenix community.