



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

DATE : 19 OCTOBER 2008

**CELE VISITS ROAD ACCIDENTS VICTIMS FAMILIES IN THEIR HOMES**

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has been visiting and engaging one on one with families of road accident victims around KZN to find out how the loss of their breadwinners has impacted on their lives.

As part of Transport months' series of events, MEC Cele, the HOD for Transport Mr. Chris Hlabisa as well as Road Safety ambassadors, have visited more than six families of the deceased around KZN engaging and leaving food parcels for them. These areas include, Vryheid, Gingindlovu, Ulundi, Nongoma and today (19/10/08) at Mafakatini. As the visits proceeded, one of the families from Enqabeni (Mafakatini area), Mr. Alpheus Bhekicala Mnyandu lost his wife in a bus crash on P741 (06/01/04) at Sweetwaters (Pietermaritzburg) that claimed nine lives, leaving him and his family with the difficulty to cope and has not been given any trauma counseling. It is alleged that since the accident, the family has not received compensation from the Road Accident Fund. "After the accident, I followed all the necessary procedures using a private lawyer (who is known to the department), and up to today we have not received even a cent from RAF; what amazes me is that I have heard that other families that claimed through the department directly have already obtained their money", said Mnyandu.

Seeing the situation and how the family is struggling, Cele promised to follow up on the matter using the department's legal team and suing the lawyers if necessary. The second family Cele and his delegation visited was the Phetha family from Nxamalala where they lost their father and the husband on the car crash on the (23/05/08) along Edendale road. Seeing the situation the family is facing, Cele promised the first born son (Sanele Phetha-25) to help him continue with his studies next year and to get a drivers license.

"It is very sad to see that families are struggling due to accidents that could have been prevented and being victims of these lawyers. The department will make sure that the culprits involve in these unlawful acts will be dealt with accordingly. The department will continue with it mandate to DEFEND THE WEAK AT ALL TIMES", said Cele.

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