



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEC BHEKI CELE'S SPEECH AT SIYABAKHUMBULA IN VRYHEID ON SUNDAY, 07-12-08.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele officiated Siyabakhumbula, a mass church service held in remembrance of those who were killed in road accidents throughout the country. The service was held at Bhhekuzulu Sports Ground, Vryheid on Sunday, 7 December 2008.

In his address to the community that filled two marquees, the MEC said that although the service was dedicated to remembering those who had died in vehicular accidents, it was important that he warn people that are still alive to be safe on the road and stay alive. He urged all parents to speak to their children about drinking and driving, as statistics show that most people who fall victim to road accidents are young, fit and economically active people.

Cele singled out alcohol as the leading cause of road accidents. He said that he was extremely disappointed that despite numerous warnings given out to the public about a road block that was carried out in Florida Road, Durban, 58 people were arrested for drunken driving. He urged public transport drivers to be cautious on the road and treat their passengers with respect and not as "loads", as they are people's mothers, fathers, sons and daughters and their death would cause a lot of pain and suffering to those left behind.

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Cele said that the new brake tester machine was also very effective in assisting to detect unroad-worthy vehicles and was convenient as it was portable and could be carried to wherever the road block was going to be conducted.

RTI STATISTICS FROM THE 1ST TO 5TH OF DECEMBER 2008.

Since the 1st of December 2008, 140 people have been arrested for drunken driving. There have been 8 speed arrests and 743 speed charges (including camera). 362 People were caught driving without a licence and 227 were charged for not wearing their seatbelts. 7 were charged for inconsiderate driving.

Under Thathiskorokoro Operations conducted by Shanela 35 buses, 22 taxis and 8 metered taxis have been impounded for road unworthiness. In total 156 vehicles have been suspended.

“Have a wonderful festive season. Have as much fun as you want, but make sure that once you are drunk you don’t go anywhere near a vehicle or the road. To be safe rather stay at home, ask somebody to drive you home or sleep where you are until you have sobered up. Remember there is still life beyond the festive season and we would like to see you again in 2009 – alive and well,” said Cele.

ENDS

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