



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

DATE: 28 JUNE 2009

MEC URGES ROAD USERS TO UPHOLD THE LAW AT ALL TIMES

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has issued a strong warning to all road users to obey the rules of the road at all times, following a weekend that was characterized by accidents mainly due to driver negligence and human error.

Approximately four people lost their lives and three were critically injured in separate accidents around the province over the weekend. In one accident at Nkwalini north of the province a vehicle collided with another leaving one of the drivers dead and three family members sustaining critical injuries. In Pietermaritzburg nine people were arrested for drunk driving. A motorist was arrested after he was caught travelling at 219 km/h on the N2 South bound Mthwalume, and at Malvern a police officer shot and wounded a suspect during an alcohol road block. The suspect tried to reach for the officers' gun after it was discovered he was carrying mandrax.

The MEC cited human error, speeding, drinking and driving and negligent and reckless driving as the main causes for accidents on our roads. Another factor for accidents over the weekend was the traffic overflow due to the start of school holidays.

"Once again we urge all road users to obey road rules at all times and to respect other road users. I find it very hard to understand why someone would be driving at 219 km/h, knowing very well that the speed limit is 120 on the freeway. It is these kinds of senseless acts that we need to put a stop to in order to create a safe environment for other road users. I would like to congratulate our traffic officers for their sterling work and their dedication," said Cele.

Ends

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