



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 15 June 2009

MEC CONDEMNS HIGH ACCIDENT RATE OVER THE WEEKEND

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has strongly condemned the high number of fatal accidents on KZN roads over the weekend. In most cases human error was cited as the main cause for the accidents.

Approximately 10 people lost their lives and it is estimated that more than 20 were critically injured in separate collisions throughout the province. In one incident on the N1 near Mobeni, a minibus overturned when the driver lost control, resulting in one fatality and 14 sustained multiple injuries. One of the victims was airlifted to Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital due to being in a critical condition. In total 41 people were arrested for drunk driving during routine patrols around the province.

"It is high time that drivers realized that when they are using our roads they are responsible for the lives of other road users. We will come down like a ton of bricks on all the drivers who do not obey the rules of the road, and who put other people's lives at risk. Once again we urge all road users to be extra cautious on our roads especially during the upcoming holiday. However, I would like to extend my condolences to all the families who lost their loved ones," said Cele.

ENDS

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