



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

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 25 JUNE 2009

MOTORISTS URGED TO BE WARY OF STRONG WINDS AND POSSIBLE RUNAWAY FIRES

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has issued a stern warning urging motorists especially those driving heavy duty vehicles on the N3 near the Van Reenen Pass to be extra cautious and vigilant because of strong gusting winds in that area.

Approximately five trucks have been swept away by gusting winds between Van Reenens Pass and Ladysmith since yesterday (24 June 2009). So far no casualties have been reported. These strong winds have forced the authorities to close the N3 near Van Reenens for certain periods guided by safety conditions. Most affected will be motorists traveling towards Johannesburg. Those approaching Durban are urged to be patient as traffic is moving at a snails' pace.

Motorists are also advised to lookout for the possibility of runaway fires in the interior of the province due to very dry and windy conditions. In the event that there are fires motorists are urged to apply the necessary safety measures, and snowfalls are expected in the Underberg and Kokstad areas tomorrow evening.

"We urge all motorists especially those using the N3 to be more alert and careful on the road. Heavy winds, storms and runaway fires pose a huge road safety challenge particularly during this season, moreover such conditions becomes a major contributor of accidents in the province. It is on that score that we urge all our road users to keep to the rules of the road and just do right," said Cele.

Ends

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