



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**DATE: 12 FEBRUARY 2009**

### **SA ROADLINK VOLUNTARY FLEET TESTING - NOTHING EXTRA-ORDINARY**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community safety and Liaison Mr Bheki Cele has robustly lashed out at the public show off by SA Roadlink on their so-called voluntary vehicle testing for roadworthy certification to end allegations against their safety standards. This follows a thorough physical check against the eNatis, which has revealed that most of the buses taken for voluntary testing were suspended and by law they were due for a complete roadworthy certification whilst some buses were due for their annual licence renewal.

"The so called voluntary testing was nothing extra-ordinary except a mere public betrayal aimed at boosting company sales at an expense of human lives. Out of the Fleet of 50 buses checked, 6 buses have been sent for Certificate of Roadworthiness (CRW) Testing of the company's own accord, of which 4 of these buses had to undergo their regular annual CRW for licensing purposes at this time," said Cele.

"All the rest of the buses which have undergone recent CRW Testing, has been as a result of these buses having been suspended by the authorities and in order to get back on the road, they had to have new CRW's performed. At this point in time SA Roadlink do not seem to have undertaken any voluntary submission of

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buses for testing purposes, outside of their normal operational requirements,” Cele added.

“SA Roadlink should have performed these voluntary checks long before taking innocent lives to the cemetery; the brutal accident on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and a series of others that subsequently led to another gruesome accident on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 speak for themselves. A constant commitment to uncompromised safety of commuters and a conducive working environment for employees in general but drivers in particular will contribute positively to the company’s image and worth the public show off, Cele concluded.

The provision of the Road Traffic Act dictates that all public transport vehicles particularly the Road Transport Quality System (RTQS) vehicles require a roadworthy certification annually on the anniversary of their licence fees to ensure public safety and to adhere to the rules and regulation that governs the country’s transportation system. However no buses of SA Roadlink are registered in the province of KZN, and as such none have been sent to any of the test stations in the province.

**Ends**

**Issued by the Office of the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison**

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