



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 29 NOVEMBER 2010**

#### **MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES A COMMITMENT FOR A SAFETY FESTIVE SEASON FROM LONG DISTANCE BUS OPERATORS.**

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr. Willies Mchunu welcomes the commitment to a safety festive season and beyond by long distance bus operators.

This weekend Mchunu met with operators as part of series of meetings to engage stakeholders within the transport family in KwaZulu-Natal.

Present in the meeting were representatives from Greyhound, Intercity, Eldo Coaches, SA RoadLink, Auto Pack and Intercape. Mchunu viewed this meeting as the beginning of a partnership that will assist bus operators and government in reducing fatalities during this coming festive season and beyond.

**"I am pleased that bus operators themselves made a commitment to a safe festive season. I also welcome the acknowledgement to improve the service to a reliable service. This meeting paved a way for both the department and operators to start addressing issues for a medium to long term. We made an undertaking that 2011 is going to be a year of safety for long distance bus operators and public transport in general,"** said Mchunu.

The meeting also resolved that government will assist long distance bus operators with infrastructure development to ensure that all buses meet the standard safety requirements. Mchunu is also going to visit bus depots and workshops to address issues of the maintenance of buses and inspections on roadworthiness.

Following this meeting the departments of Transport and long distance bus operators are jointly working in developing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that will formalize relations and set the tone for standards and commitments from both parties. After this meeting, Mchunu is expected to meet with the leadership of the taxi industry, truck drivers and driving schools owners, to also develop the MOA on relations and standards.

Mchunu said all these are efforts by government to interact and engage all role-players in reducing carnage on our road and in changing the culture and behavior of motorists in KZN.

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