



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 07 NOVEMBER 2011

**MEC WILLIES MCHUNU STEPS UP EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY IN
KWAZULU-NATAL**

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Willies Mchunu will tomorrow (08/11/11) hold an urgent Indaba with taxi drivers, owners and driving school instructors. The programme is aimed at creating and enhancing awareness on road safety matters.

The programme will have two sessions, one in the morning at 9H00am with taxi drivers and the second session in the afternoon at 13H00 for driving instructors.

The Department has identified discipline and respect for road regulations as the key in enhancing road safety and the Institutions that produces drivers needs to be roped in as key partners in this ongoing campaign. The Department is concerned that road accidents are now listed among leading killers in South Africa.

“MEC Willies Mchunu believes that while we may blame road conditions and malfunctioning of vehicles as the cause in certain instances, we need to appreciate that human element (negligence, reckless driving etc) is a major factor that contributes to the ever increasing fatalities on our roads”.

Media Liaison & Public Relations Directorate

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The Interaction forms part of the groundbreaking road safety campaign known as “**Operation Vali’ngozi**”. The Department hopes through these engagements to change the mindset of road users and produce a new generation of drivers who obey the rules of the road and are cautious about the safety of other road users. “Road Safety cannot be the preserve of one institution but requires support and joint efforts from all stakeholders” Mchunu says.

The recent statistics clearly confirm that public transport vehicles especially taxi and buses are the major contributions to road accidents. Many of these accidents lead to the loss of innocent lives of public transport users who do not have an option but to use public transport.

The Department is concerned that when public transport vehicles get involved in an accident, a lot of people get injured or die.

MEC Mchunu commented that “The Department has committed, through its vision and strategic objectives, to ensuring a public transport system that is safe and reliable. The reality at this point is that public transport has become a road safety hazard and one of the main contributors in fatalities while, we as the government are engaging in efforts to improve and promote the use of public transport services”

The details of the consultation session is as follows

DATE: 08 November 2011

VENUE: Olive Convention Centre- Durban

1st session with the taxi drivers

TIME: 09h00

2nd session with driving instructors

TIME: 13h00

All media houses are invited

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