

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 30 MAY 2014

ATTENTION: EDITORS, NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC WILLIES MCHUNU CALLS FOR PATIENCE AND TOLERANCE ON THE ROAD AHEAD OF THE COMRADES MARATHON THIS WEEKEND

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has called on all road users to exercise patience and tolerance ahead of the annual Comrades Marathon on Sunday.

The marathon is expected to attract a heavy flow of motorists as athletes make their way to the province to participate in the country's most popular athletic event.

This year, the marathon runners will test their fitness and stamina over the 90 kilometre distance from Pietermaritzburg, up Cato Ridge, and down Fields Hill and finish at the Kings Mead Stadium in Durban. The activity typically impacts the normal flow of traffic in both cities.

Mchunu urged motorists to maintain calm on the road, show patience and avoid taking closed routes.

"We welcome the athletes, and other visitors, who will be in our province for this weekend to participate in the Comrades Marathon on Sunday. At the same time, we wish to appeal to public transportation operators and individual motorists to be extra vigilant and ensure that the lives of all road users are safeguarded. Essentially, this means we all must strictly observe road traffic rules, signs, and exercise the all-important patience and tolerance.

Our multi-disciplinary law enforcement teams involving our Road Traffic Inspectorate, the SAPS, metro police from both cities, will be out in full force to ensure that they deal decisively with bad behaviour. Finally, I wish all the athletes a happy run and may the best athletes win, and the rest of the participants finish the race on time," said Mchunu. Ends.

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane - 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755 Kwanele.ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi - 081 018 0518/ 082 565 0205 Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: <u>www.kzntransport.gov.za</u>

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport