



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: 7 December 2014

#### **MEC MCHUNU VOWS TO INTENSIFY TRAFFIC POLICE DEPLOYMENT TO REDUCE ROAD ACCIDENTS IN KZN DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON**

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has vowed that traffic officers and other important resources will be heavily deployed to track down on speeding and drunk drivers during the 2014 festive season holidays.

Mchunu issued this stern warning yesterday (06 December 2014) when addressing more than 5 000 mourners who attended the mass funeral of 10 people who died in a head-on collision in Mbazwana last weekend.

He further urged motorists to use the road responsibly and refrain from drinking and driving for this province to achieve significant reduction in road fatalities this festive season.

"It pains me that I am standing in front of 10 coffins for an accident that could have been avoided by both drivers of the truck and bakkie in line with the requirements of the traffic law. I am convinced it is possible for KwaZulu-Natal to reduce road fatalities this festive season, if all road users take responsibility and respect traffic laws," said Mchunu, addressing the mourners.

All of the deceased were occupants in a bakkie and were Zikhali family members and their relatives. They were all buried in Mbazwana sports ground, with the assistance of the Department of Transport, Road Accident Fund and uMhlabuyalingana Local Municipality.

Mchunu said government will do all it can, including the deployment of more traffic officers, conducting road blocks and other operations to track down on motorists who disobey traffic laws this festive season and beyond.

"We will intensify deployment of traffic officers in key strategic points to ensure visibility and to deal with transgressors. As I am talking to you here, I know that someone here, will go out and exceed the speed limit. I know that as we are attending this funeral today, someone here will be drinking while driving. This is the kind of mind-set we have in our society – of people who do not value life and who disrespect the law. Last week on the N2, a driver was caught driving at 211 km/h. This is equal to throwing a weapon of mass destruction in a highly populated area. This behaviour is totally unacceptable," said Mchunu.

Mchunu also urged drivers to refuse pressure from employers to drive un-roadworthy vehicles, saying the sentencing of the Fields Hill truck driver, Sanele May, to eight years and 10 months in prison should be a lesson to all drivers.

ENDS.

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