



transport
Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

Street Address: 172 Burger Street,
Pietermaritzburg, 3200

Postal Address: Private Bag X9043,
Pietermaritzburg, 3200

Tel: (27)(33) 355 8664

Fax: (27)(33) 355 8632

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

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS, EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU LAUDS DECREASE IN EASTER ROAD FATALITIES, CALLS FOR MORE VIGILANCE

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has lauded the marginal decrease in the number of road fatalities in the province during the last Easter weekend.

Mchunu said while the decrease in the number of crashes and people's lives lost was a good sign he was still very concerned that it remained high.

"With fatalities standing at 30, we lost six fewer lives than last year when we lost 36 people from 35 crashes. This is not acceptable, because one life lost is one too many. While we are beginning to see fruits of our Operation Valingozi road safety campaign messages, we should be concerned that some motorists still drive under the influence of alcohol and blatantly disrespect road traffic rules," said Mchunu.

During the last weekend, 30 316 vehicles were stopped across the province by multi-disciplinary law enforcement officers for compliance checks. At least 145 vehicles were impounded for various defects; scores of motorists were arrested for high speed with one caught driving at 206 kilometres per hour in a 120 kilometre per hour zone.

"Our law enforcement officers were in full force patrolling our corridors during this weekend. We had operations throughout the province in our four regions. Our focus was particularly on the long distance public transport operators and heavy motor vehicles. In the road blocks we stopped 30316 vehicles and 145 vehicles were impounded. Among the offences were drinking and driving, unfastened seat belts, inconsiderate driving, and unlicensed drivers," said Mchunu.

"As government we remain committed to ensuring that we prevent further road deaths on our roads. That is why we will continue with our awareness campaigns as we get ready for another long weekend and appeal to motorists to also be on their best behaviour to avoid loss of life on our roads," said Mchunu.

Ends.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kwanele Ncalane: 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755
Nathi Sukazi: 081 018 0518/ 082 565 0205
Website: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za>
Twitter: @KZNTransport
Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport

Kwanele.Ncalane@Kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi.Sukazi@Kzntransport.gov.za

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