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## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: 17 April 2014  
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS, REPORTERS AND PR WIRES

#### **ROAD SAFETY IS OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY, SAYS MEC WILLIES MCHUNU AS HE CALLS FOR EXTRA VIGILANCE AHEAD OF THE EASTER LONG WEEKEND**

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has again called for extra vigilance on provincial roads ahead of the Easter long weekend.

Mchunu made this call in anticipation of increased traffic of vehicles that will be entering the province today. Looking at last year's comparable Thursday statistics, well over 30 000 vehicles entered the province through the usually hectic N3, linking KwaZulu-Natal with Free State and Gauteng. Yet an additional 17 000 vehicles entered through the N2 from north and south corridors, connecting routes from Mpumalanga, Swaziland, Mozambique and the Eastern Cape. At least 3 000 vehicles are expected to pass through our busiest Marianhill tollgate during the peak hours of this afternoon (Thursday, 17 April).

"We have deployed close to 800 multi-disciplinary law enforcement officers including those from traffic, metro and local municipalities, customs and the South African Police Service. These officers have drastically heightened visibility on the road and will conduct compulsory roadblocks, 24 hours a day, throughout the Easter weekend," said Mchunu.

"Our strong message is that illegal and bad driver behaviour will receive zero-tolerance. Irresponsible conduct including drinking and driving, high speed, unlicensed drivers and unroadworthy motor vehicles will be dealt with firmly," added Mchunu.

He said while the government played its part in implementing plans to prevent road crashes and fatalities, the greater responsibility rested with all road users.

"We have an obligation to save lives on the road, so too are all road users. Road safety is everyone's responsibility. This includes long distance taxi and bus operators, cyclists, passengers and pedestrians, who should all remain vigilant, and ensure they "arrive alive" at their destinations. On behalf of the provincial government, I would like to wish everyone a safe, blessed and peaceful Easter weekend. Let's all do our utmost best to be safe so we can have the opportunity to cast our vote come the 7th of May," said Mchunu.

Mchunu and department's officials will also spend the entire weekend spreading the road safety message across different church gatherings in the province.

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