



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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

MEC MCHUNU CONTINUES TO PLEAD FOR SAFER MEASURES ON ROADS DURING FESTIVE SEASON

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has applauded a multi-disciplinary law enforcement team for arresting a taxi driver in Jozini earlier today for drinking and driving, which has helped save the lives of 15 passengers his vehicle was carrying from Mtubatuba to Johannesburg.

The driver, a 39 year old male, had an alcohol reading of 0.13 mg/l, way above the 0.01 mg/l (alco-reading not blood sample) maximum alcohol reading for a driver, was arrested by the Mkhuze SAPS.

This morning's arrest adds to the total count of similar arrests of 218 made so far in the province since the beginning of December.

To date, since the start of the festive season on 1 December 2015, the department has stopped 115487 vehicles compared with the same time last year when they stopped 92240 vehicles across the province.

Last year 109 drunken driving arrests were made by this time, a number that has doubled to 218 drunken drivers caught in our road blocks across the province. A total of 4981 speed arrests have been made, up from 3839 last year. More than 1900 drivers have been arrested for not fastening seatbelts.

"There will be 587 people who will be without vehicles because we suspended them for various defects this year as compared to last year when we issued 556 suspensions on vehicles. Moreover, the number of crashes in the province has dropped from last year's 131 to this year's 105. This has also seen fewer fatalities of 123 this year compared to 155 last year, although we maintain that one life lost is one too many," said Mchunu.

He added: **"All our efforts of increased visibility on the road are paying off as we see the number of crashes and fatalities decrease. These results are evidence that there is a lot of good work done, which is yielding positive results. We wish to urge motorists to continue adhering to road rules and being responsible these holidays. We also warn those going to various festivals to always be cautious and save lives."**

Ends.

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