



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC MCHUNU TIGHTENS SECURITY AHEAD OF THE REED DANCE CEREMONY IN NONGOMA

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has announced tight security measures ahead of the annual Reed dance ceremony scheduled to take place at eNyokeni Palace in KwaNongoma.

These drastic security measures includes the assessment of all buses and taxis that will be transporting maidens and the deployment of more than 650 traffic officers from Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) and various municipalities across the province, plus more than 291 traffic vehicles. The extra-ordinary measures include random alcohol testing centers along the route.

Thousands of maidens are expected to attend the reed dance ceremony in which Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini KaBhekuzulu delivers his a message on moral regeneration and self-preservation.

MEC Mchunu has further ordered that there should be no vehicle that arrives in eNyokeni Palace without being subjected to thorough test and assessment.

He has also called on owners of buses and taxis, especially those coming from far-flung areas, to provide back-up drivers.

"It is very important that we prioritized the safety of our people as no price tag can be attached to the value of our people's lives. All stakeholders must work with us to make the celebration of this important heritage an accident-free one. We have directed all law enforcement agencies to make sure that all vehicles are stopped and checked. We have also ordered them to ensure that no driver will arrive nor leave eNyokeni palace without being tested for alcohol. We call on all road users to be extra cautious and exercise patience," said MEC Mchunu.

"We have set up hotlines where passengers and other road users can report any misdemeanors by drivers. Our key message is that our communities are our eyes and ears, and they must not keep quiet when people are drinking and driving. If you drink you don't drive and if you drive you don't drink, this is the message we are sending to all road users," said MEC Mchunu.

The integrated law enforcement operations will be focusing on public transport, passenger overloading, driver and vehicle licenses, drunken driving, seatbelts, roadworthiness tests and other traffic violations.

The high visibility of enforcement and heightened in areas and roads leading to eNyonkeni, mainly areas which are perceived as accident red spots. These roads include R66 between uLundi and KwaNongoma, R618 between KwaNongoma and KwaHlabisa, R618 between KwaNongoma and Vryheid, R66 between KwaNongoma and Phongolo.

MEC Mchunu further urged all motorists to adhere to all traffic laws, saying any errant behavior will be dealt with harshly.

“We wish to appeal strongly to all our people to adhere to all traffic regulations. We reiterate our position that safety on the road is our collective responsibility,” said MEC Mchunu.

ENDS.

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