



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC MCHUNU ORDERS LAW ENFORCEMENT TO INCREASE VIGILANCE AS MOST MATRIC LEARNERS ARE WRITING FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has made a passionate call to learners to refrain from drinking and driving, urging them to denounce any criminal acts.

Mchunu's call comes as most of the matric class of 2015 is entering the final leg of their matric examinations today and writing their last matric paper.

Usually on this day, celebrations marking the end of examinations, dubbed "pens down," are staged across the province and are usually marked by incidents of excessive intake of alcohol and substance abuse including drugs, which lead to violence and road accidents.

Last year, several incidents of stabbing and killing of learners were reported in areas around Richards Bay with a number of matric learners involved in road accidents, due to substance abuse.

Today (27 November 2015), MEC Mchunu ordered traffic officials from the Department's Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI), municipal traffic officers and SAPS to be extra vigilance to prevent all such gatherings.

"Law enforcement agencies are on high alert and will be monitoring across the province to prevent any unfortunate incidents. We also appeal to learners to refrain from drinking and driving. The levels of deaths, be it on the road or pure criminality, during such celebrations are unacceptable. We call on all stakeholders, including teachers and parents, to ensure the safety of learners during this day," said MEC Mchunu.

Associated with this day is also the high number of learners who illegally drive their parents' vehicles without driver licenses and traffic police, as part of their operations, will be stopping all vehicles to check on compliance.

Mchunu urged learners to be ambassadors of road safety and be active in fighting crime within their ranks, saying only active citizenry can make a difference.

"Safety, be it on the road or in our society, is everybody's responsibility. The energy of young people is mostly needed for us to reduce the scourge of road accidents and crime. Through structures such as the Community Policing Forum's Youth Desk, we intend mobilising young people to take charge and play an active role in the fight against crime," said Mchunu.

Mchunu also expressed concerns at the increasing number of teachers and learners killed in schools this year, saying joint work between the Departments of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Education, Health, and Social Development, working with the police and communities, would effectively address school safety challenges.

He added that the departments were finalising the integrated provincial "Festive Season Safety Plan", which would be tabled at Cabinet next week.

ENDS.

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