



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Sunday, 6 September 2015
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors and PR Wires

A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AMONG 16 ARRESTED FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING OVER THE WEEKEND

A TOTAL of 16 drivers were arrested at the weekend for drunken driving by the integrated team of KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport's Road Traffic Inspectorate and the SAPS, who kept a close watch on vehicles transporting maidens to the annual Reed Dance (Umkhosi woMhlanga) festival, which ends in eNyokeni, KwaNongoma, today.

Those arrested include one official from the provincial Government who was caught driving state-owned vehicles under the influence of alcohol and for driving state vehicles without authority. The official was immediately arrested and the state-owned vehicle impounded.

The no-nonsense law enforcement team started manning the roads to eNyokeni from Thursday and had stopped well over 2 500 vehicles for vehicle and driver roadworthiness and fitness tests. A total of 800 were drivers charged for various offences. This was part of the provincial government's clampdown on reckless drivers and unroadworthy vehicles to ensure road safety over the weekend.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, said the government had adopted a tough stance against those drivers who put the lives of innocent people in danger.

"In our budget speech this year we announced that the Government and its employees should take a lead in complying with road safety and traffic regulations. It is, therefore, embarrassing that one government official was caught driving under the influence of alcohol, and two for driving state vehicles without authority, and should therefore be meted out with deserved sanctions. Indeed, this is tangible evidence that there are no holly cows in our efforts to enforce traffic regulations," said Mchunu.

Mchunu said going forward the Department would develop a holistic plan on how the Government should deal with officials who flout traffic regulations while on duty or off-duty. Mchunu thanked all those who drove responsibly, saying that their behaviour should be applauded as it was exemplary.

“Equally, we wish to applaud the good work by the law enforcement team of traffic officers and SAPS who are working around the clock to ensure that those who flout road traffic regulations are immediately dealt with,” he said.

“Early this week, we announced drastic security measures as part of intensified law enforcement to ensure an accident free Reed Dance. The arrest of these drivers is a clear message that we are tough on all those who are disregarding road traffic laws”, warned Mchunu.

The integrated traffic operations are focusing on overloading, excessive speeding, drinking and driving, seatbelts, vehicle and driver fitness and roadworthiness.

ENDS.

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 072- 803 1462/ 079- 699 5755/ Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi 081 018 0518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport