



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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FIVE DRIVERS ARRESTED FOR DRUNK DRIVING AT ENYOKENI ROYAL PALACE REED DANCE

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has expressed utter disgust at the five drivers who were arrested transporting the maidens to eNyokeni Royal palace for the annual Reed dance.

Since yesterday and today, the Department of Transport's Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) is conducting law enforcement operations on all the roads leading up to the reed dance.

The five bus and taxi drivers were arrested after being tested as part of a heightened enforcement announced by MEC Mchunu ahead of the reed dance.

Thus far, 89 buses and 301 taxis have been stopped and checked, 118 charges were issued for various transgressions, including speed, failure to use seat belts and reckless driving.

Four drivers were also arrested for driving without licenses and one was arrested for driving a public transport vehicle without the necessary documentation (Professional Driver's Permit).

Yesterday MEC Mchunu, attended the bus inspection operation at the SMT Bus Company depot in Pietermaritzburg as part of proactive operations before the buses embarked on the trip to KwaNongoma. He also addressed drivers and cautioned them on the importance of prioritising safety on the road.

MEC Mchunu has today expressed disappointment that one bus transporting maidens was impounded at uMdloti RTI due to diesel leaks last night.

"We, however, applaud the good work by traffic officers who have so far arrested five public transport drivers for drinking and driving. 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. The message is clear, no driver should arrive nor leave eNyokeni palace without being tested," said MEC Mchunu.

This week MEC Mchunu announced that more than 650 traffic officers have been deployed for the reed dance law enforcement operation this weekend. He further urged transport companies to make sure that all buses have back-up drivers.

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

ENDS.

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