



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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ATTENTION: EDITORS and NEWS EDITORS

MEC MCHUNU ANNOUNCES A 26, 000-PLUS STRONG MULTI-DISCIPLINARY LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM FOR FESTIVE SEASON 2015

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, today announced a 26, 000-strong multi-disciplinary law enforcement team to ensure people's safety in KwaZulu-Natal during the December holidays.

Mchunu, accompanied by Health MEC, Dr. Sibongiseni Dhlomo, launched the provincial safety plan earlier today, with a mother-of-all-roadblocks that started at 07h00 am.

The roadblock, which screened motorists for licences, vehicle roadworthiness, outstanding fines, had stopped more 500 vehicles at the Mooi River Toll Plaza, where more than 1, 000 vehicles were recorded within the first of kick-off. It was manned by an integrated team comprising members of the SAPS, Department of Transport's Road Traffic Inspectorate, municipalities' authorities, National Traffic Police, Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services, and Customs officials. Tourism KZN and the Department of Social Development's Social Workers, as well as Forensic Pathologists also joined in.

Amongst other key focus areas that will be tightly monitored will be the police killings, illegal firearms that are found to be the driving force of crime, abuse of women, children and people with disabilities, drinking and driving, as well as disregard for road traffic rules.

“As government we believe that collective action is required to fight crime, social ills generally, and the road carnage. We want to remind motorists to be ambassadors of road safety and to recommit themselves in ensuring that no loss of life occurs while they are behind the wheel. To this end, we have deployed a total of 26,723 women and men comprising of, among others 20,121 SAPS members; 1,786 eThekweni Metro Police officers; 846 RTI officers; 58 Public Transport Enforcement Services officers; 8 Cross Border officers; 1, 912 EMS officers; 118 Home Affairs officers; 1, 337 Crime Prevention Volunteers and 897 SANDF members. With this beefed up personnel, we can assure citizens of, and visitors to, KwaZulu-Natal, that we stand ready to prevent road crashes and fatalities as well as root out crime and lawlessness from our communities. As citizens of this province, it’s in our best interest to turn the tide on crime, road crashes and fatalities and and disease, all which paint KwaZulu-Natal as a leader in social ills,” said Mchunu.

As part of the day’s programme, both MEC went on to launch the beginning of the construction of the Sandspruit River Bridge in Woodford, Bergville, which will cost approximately R9.1 million to complete.

“The construction of this vehicle and pedestrian bridge in Bergville is part of our rural infrastructure development programme that has benefitted underprivileged areas including uMsinga, Nquthu, Nkandla, and Maphumulo,” said Mchunu.

Ends.

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