

## **MEC MCHUNU CONCERNED AT THE INCREASING DEATHS OF PEOPLE ON PROVINCIAL ROADS**

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has expressed concerns that more than 26 537 written charges have been issued to motorists who are caught violating traffic regulations.

MEC Mchunu said the alarming figures are a clear indication that people continue to disregard traffic laws and are also driving recklessly.

Most of these written charges emanate from excessive speeding, use of unroadworthy vehicles, failure to fasten seat belts and driving without a licence.

Beyond this, more than 178 motorists have been arrested in the province for drinking and driving since the start of the festive season's enforcement operations.

Preliminary reports are indicating that about 191 people have to date been killed in more than 165 crashes in the province since the beginning of December.

Reacting to these preliminary statistics, MEC Mchunu expressed concerns that more people continue to lose their lives on provincial roads, saying human mistakes are the most contributing factors.

"Most of these accidents are caused by people driving under the influence of alcohol and motorists who go out of their way to violate traffic laws. It pains me that people continue to lose their lives and we such a high number of crashes," said Mchunu.

He added by commending traffic officials who have continued to conduct overnight operations in all accident hot spots in the province, saying their dedication will go a long way in reducing road fatalities.

"Many people have been arrested for drinking and driving. Many have been charged for excessive speeding. These overnight operations will continue until the end of holidays. We warn those who undermine traffic laws to spare a thought for people's lives. Our law enforcement officers will continue to ensure that those found in the wrong dealt with firmly," concludes MEC Mchunu.