



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Monday, 28 March 2016
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

MEC MCHUNU HAS PLACED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON HIGH ALERT AS TRAFFIC VOLUMES ARE INCREASING ON PROVINCIAL ROADS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has placed all traffic law enforcement agencies on high alert as more than 2 000 vehicles are leaving the province through busy toll gates per hour, including the Mariannhill Toll plaza on the N3, outside Durban.

MEC Mchunu together with the Head of Department, Mr. Sibusiso Gumbi, were today on the ground, participating in the multi-disciplinary road block in the province, marking the end of the Easter long weekend when travellers are going back to their homes and places of work.

Preliminary indications are showing both crashes and fatalities have been reduced, however final figures will be released nationally in the course of the week.

Commenting on the work of the enforcement agencies throughout the Easter long weekend, MEC Mchunu expressed utter disgust at the fact that more than 230 motorists were arrested for drinking and driving.

"The fact that so many people have been arrested for drinking and driving indicates how people deliberately violate the law. Such behaviour is not only a criminal act but also dangerous to other road users who are law abiding citizens. As majority of the people are making their way back from the holidays, we have placed traffic officers and police on high alert. We are all putting our hands on the deck to ensure that we sustain the downward trend in road crashes and fatalities. Overnight operations will continue even today until we are satisfied that traffic volumes have normalised," said MEC Mchunu.

So far more than 86 000 vehicles have been stopped in the province and more than 18 000 charges were issued for various defects.

More than 1 589 drivers were arrested for driving without legitimate documentations and more than 182 public transport vehicles were impounded.

"Our multi-disciplinary approach of mounting joint operations involving the Road Traffic Inspectorate, South African Police Service, National Traffic Police and Municipal

Traffic Officers – is yielding positive results. At the operation in Marrianhill today, we interacted with both drivers and passengers on the need of working together and take collective responsibility in reducing the road carnage. The irresponsible behaviour which we witnessed includes people who deliberately take out or tamper with number plates to avoid speed cameras. This is equal to defeating the ends of justice and must be discouraged,” said Mchunu.

Mchunu concluded by urging all motorists to drive cautiously, as well as other road users including pedestrians and cyclists to obey road rules. He also thanked all those, who during the Easter Weekend displayed respect for the rule of law, saying their action has contributed in saving lives of innocent people.

Ends.

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