



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR CLAMP-DOWN ON ILLEGAL USE OF BLUE LIGHTS AND APPEALS FOR TOLERANCE ON THE ROAD AHEAD OF THE FESTIVE SEASON

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has called on law enforcement agencies to clamp-down on motorists that have illegally fitted blue lights, thus violating traffic laws in the province.

Kaunda said he was aware that some motorists are "cheating" if not "acting fraudulently" and violating traffic laws by pretending to be traffic police and driving at an acceptable speed.

This, according to Kaunda, undermines the traffic laws and endangers the lives of other road users. Kaunda's statement comes in the wake of the arrest of Mr. Noel Ngcobo, who was arrested on the N2, driving a vehicle illegally flashing a blue light device.

He was arrested over the weekend and appeared today in the Hibberdene Magistrate's Court, and was given a bail of R1 000. Ngcobo is facing cases of speeding, reckless driving and unauthorised display of blue lights.

Kaunda vowed that law enforcement agencies will sanction sections of the National Road Traffic Act and the relevant regulations to enforce the law against all the offenders.

"Law enforcement agencies must be very vigilant and leave no stone unturned. Similarly, the law will apply to those using false number plates, or those not displaying them. The law is explicitly clear that only traffic officers, South African Police Services members and South African National Defence Force members are allowed, in the course of discharging their responsibilities, to use blue lights," said Kaunda.

Kaunda also called on those escorting VIPs to lead by example and take responsibility when displaying blue lights and be patient with other drivers on the road.

In April 2012 the Department of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison presented to the Legislature the draft guidelines detailing the use of blue lights and sizes of the convoys escorting VIPs, which include the Premier, MECs, Speaker of the Legislature and Judge President. Subsequent to that a meeting was held with all VIP protectors in the province to remind them of their responsibilities and the code guiding their conduct.

Kaunda called on all motorists to respect the traffic regulations and appealed for tolerance on the road ahead of the busy festive season.

"As we are preparing for the festive season, we have developed a clear festive plan to curb road crashes and fatalities. We appeal to all road users to behave and take responsibility on the road. We must all commit in ending the scourge of road crashes and fatalities," concludes Kaunda.

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