



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC KAUNDA SADDENED BY NAT "COOL-CAT" GUMBI'S UNTIMELY PASSING

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has reacted with shock and sadness after learning about the untimely passing this morning of Nathalian Gumbi, popularly known as "Nat 'Cool Cat' Gumbi."

Gumbi passed on this morning at his home in Durban after a short illness. As an employee of the Department of Transport, Gumbi was responsible for coordinating road safety campaigns and liaising with the Road Accident Fund (RAF) and other key stakeholders.

He joined the Department in 2004 after a sterling career at SABC's Ukhozi FM, where Gumbi became a household name through a weekend children's programme called Ukhozi loDado. He also presented a 'graveyard' slot, Isigungu, which drew its audience largely from truck drivers and created awareness on road safety issues and other social issues.

Kaunda said that he was deeply saddened by Gumbi's untimely death as he was one of the longest-serving staff members of the Department who made an immense contribution to our road safety campaigns. Gumbi's voice will be missed in the Department's radio promos, where he used his skills to create awareness on government's service delivery programmes.

Gumbi was also instrumental in creating good working relations between the Department and other social partners in promoting road safety initiatives. Through his role working with RAF, tens of road crash victims were assisted to lodge their accident claims and received due benefits by being compensated on time by the fund.

His efforts in this regard resulted the uncovering bogus lawyers, who were looting RAF claims and defrauding the State and stealing from worthy beneficiaries.

"Nat 'Cool-Cat' Gumbi's passing is not only a loss to his family, but also to the Department of Transport and the people of KwaZulu-Natal. We have indeed been robbed of his exceptional skills and experience, as an ambassador for road safety. We would like to convey our sincere and deepest condolences to his family, colleagues and friends. On this sad moment, may they find solace in the fact that Gumbi left a legacy of which we are all proud. His passing comes at a very crucial time when we have started preparing for the festive safety plan of which Gumbi was very instrument," said Kaunda.

Ends.

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