



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 19 December 2016
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

MEC KAUNDA WELCOMES AND COMMENDS HARSH COURT JUDGEMENT AGAINST A SPEEDSTER

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. MxolisiKaunda, has welcomed today's (19 December 2016) court judgement against a speedster who was caught traveling at 223 km/h on the N2 near Ifafa last Saturday (17 December 2016).

Kaunda has commended Magistrate Giel Van Aarde for issuing a whopping R40 000 fine and a 12 months suspension of the driver's licence.

Mr. Sithembiso Xolani Ntombela (28), an engineer by profession, appeared today in the Hibberdene Magistrate court where he received his harsh sentencing.

"This is one of the harshest sentences our courts have so far delivered and we welcome it, because it shows that our Magistrates are heeding our call for stiffer measures against recalcitrant road users, especially drivers. Speeding above the regulated limit as well as drinking and driving count amongst the biggest contributors to road crashes and fatalities on our roads. We are pleased with this outcome, which should serve as a great lesson to all those who still break the rules of the road that they will face the full might of the law. We want to assure all motorists that our law enforcement officers are out in full numbers to deal with lawlessness. We are particularly pleased with the collaboration and cooperation shown by the judiciary in strengthening the efforts of eliminating criminals from our roads," said Kaunda.

Meanwhile, MEC Kaunda has also learnt with shock of the death of four people following a horrific accident on the N2 North in Mhlosinga near Hluhluwe this morning (19 December 2016).

Preliminary reports reveal that the crash involved two vehicles (a VW Polo and a Mazda). It is alleged that one of the vehicles lost control and swerved onto the oncoming traffic leaving four people dead on the scene. There are three people who sustained serious injuries and were taken to Ngwelezane Hospital to receive medical attention. A case of culpable

homicide has been opened and further investigations are underway to establish the cause of this crash.

Kaunda has raise his concerns once again on the increased number of crashes since the beginning of the festive season.

“We are very disturbed by the continuing, fatal road crashes across the province. On behalf of the government, I wish to send our deepest condolences to all the affected families and wish those in hospital a speedy recovery. We further wish to appeal to all drivers to be extra cautious on the road during this busy period with high traffic volumes,” said 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