



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC MCHUNU CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMES DECREASE IN ROAD FATALITIES IN KZN PROVINCE OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON 2015

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has cautiously welcomed the decrease in road crashes and fatalities in the province over the Festive season 2015 period, albeit still very concerned that too many lives are lost in provincial roads.

Today, (12/01/2016), National Transport Minister, Ms. Dipuo Peters, announced Festive Season 2015 accident statistics and revealed that KwaZulu-Natal is the only province that has recorded a decrease in fatalities.

Minister Peters indicated that KwaZulu-Natal recorded a 2 % decline in road fatalities, which is a major development to the province that usually attracts more traffic and tourists during holidays.

Reacting to the announcement by the Minister, MEC Mchunu, applauded the integrated law enforcement agencies, saying it is through collective efforts that a downward trend in road fatalities can be sustained.

"We welcome the decrease in road fatalities in our province, albeit cautiously noting that we are still experiencing an intolerably high number of the loss of life on our roads. We commend the integrated law enforcement teams for their bravery and for working tirelessly during the festive season. We wish to extend our appreciation to those road users, who, during this period behaved in accordance with the law. It is through strong partnership between government, civil society and transport role players that we can sustain a downward trend in road fatalities. The fact that we are the only province that recorded a decrease must encourage us to continue working hard, saving the lives of people on the road," said MEC Mchunu.

Mchunu, however, expressed concerns that more than 200 crashes were recorded in the province and that scores of people lost their lives, saying one life lost is one too many.

Deployments of traffic officers in strategic spots across the province will continue as schools are set to resume the academic calendar tomorrow.

Since the province launched Operation Valingozi in 2013, more progress has been recorded in the number of vehicles stopped and checked in the province.

This last festive season period, more than 208 000 vehicles were stopped and checked in the province. More than 3900 were arrested for not using seatbelts, while 444 were arrested for drinking and driving.

ENDS.

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