



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

MEC KAUNDA PLEASED WITH EARLY OUTCOMES OF FESTIVE ENFORCEMENT PLAN AS MORE THAN 84 MOTORISTS CAUGHT DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has hailed the outcomes of the long weekend law enforcement operations which in total has netted more than 84 motorists for driving under the influence of alcohol across the province.

The long weekend multi-disciplinary operations are part of the approved festive season safety plans which was tabled by Kaunda and endorsed by the Provincial Executive Council.

A clampdown, which has sent a strong signal of the province's Zero Tolerance stance to road traffic infringements, was held in all major cities, targeted drag racing, drinking and driving, driving at an excessive speed, and driving un-roadworthy vehicles.

In Pietermaritzburg alone, more than 43 motorists were arrested for drinking and driving in the CBD. This operation locked all the major points in Pietermaritzburg. Similar operations were also held in Durban's busiest roads, including Florida road, Umngeni and many other roads.

Essentially, the festive plan entails, among others, conducting major operations in all 10 district municipalities plus eThekweni metro, and targets the influx of motorist moving in and out of the province.

The highlight of these operations was the main roadblock held at Ulundi at the R66 junction, which was led by Kaunda on Friday, as the MEC Champion of Zululand, and was attended by the leadership of local government in the district.

Since Thursday, the province in all highways started experiencing high volumes of traffic reported at all toll gates, mainly on bounds leading to Durban. At some point the Mariannhill toll plaza recorded an average 2 000 vehicles an hour. Traffic volumes are expected to increase this week ahead of Christmas Day.

Commenting on this weekend's enforcement, Kaunda voiced his satisfaction with the collective efforts demonstrated by law enforcement agencies and urged them to get tougher as Xmas weekend is approaching.

"We are so far impressed with the high level of visibility of enforcement agencies throughout major corridors in the province. I have also been in most parts of the province and participating in many operations. We applaud the good work by all agencies including the department's Road Traffic Inspectorate, SAPS, National Traffic Police, SANDF, and Emergency Medical Services. The arrest last night of more than 78 motorists for drinking and driving is a clear indication of our focus to root out errant drivers, who are reckless and do not value life. These drivers belong in jail. Many vehicles are being stopped every day and the instruction is clear, arrest, arrest and arrest all errant road users. We also appeal to pedestrians as well to use areas demarcated for crossing. Roads safety is everybody's responsibility, so let's all unite and fight the scourge of road crashes and fatalities," said Kaunda.

Embargoed - MEC Kaunda will this afternoon from 19h00 attend a major road block at uMlazi V section. This road block will be part of launching heightened enforcement targeting busy entry and exit points to townships in the province.

Ends.

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