



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Sunday, 21 May 2017
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR

MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIPS TO END ROAD CARNAGE

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has called on the religious sector to close ranks with government and the law enforcement agencies to reduce road carnage.

Speaking at the interfaith prayer which was organized jointly by the Department and the religious leaders in Mandeni yesterday (Saturday, 20 May 2017), Kaunda said that for the country to be able to reduce road crashes and fatalities, strong partnerships must be formed between all sectors of the society.

KwaZulu-Natal continues to record a high rate of road crashes and fatalities. During the Easter Holidays, KwaZulu-Natal was the second highest province in terms of the percentage share of road crashes and fatalities, but the highest in the actual number of people lost on the road.

Kaunda said that he was encouraged that the religious sector in the Ilembe District was taking practical steps to deal with the scourge of road crashes.

"We want to encourage other sectors of the society to take a leaf from the religious community. Ilembe District, particularly the area of Mandeni, is one of the areas hardest hit by major road crashes," said Kaunda.

In February this year, five people were killed in a horror crash involving three vehicles along the N2 near the Mandeni Bridge. This is also the same stretch of road that claimed the lives of Bongani Maduna who was the driver of MEC Sihle Zikalala, near KwaMbonambi, as well as former Deputy Mayor of King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Thulani Mashaba, near Ballito.

Kaunda said that in memory of all those who have passed on along this stretch of road, **"we must make a commitment that we will always abide by the road rules to save lives."**

"As the Department of Transport in the province we have developed an annual road safety plan, which entails 24-hour police visibility and law enforcement throughout

the province. Our law enforcement agencies including the traffic officers, SAPS, Emergency Medical Services and SANDF along the border, among others, will be closing ranks from Thursdays to Sundays, ensuring that there is heightened law enforcement in townships, suburbs and rural towns as well as on national routes. This will include conducting road blocks near places of entertainment such as taverns, pubs, Oshisanyama and upmarket restaurants,” said Kaunda.

Statistics indicate that most fatal crashes on our roads occur from Thursdays to Sundays during the evening and early hours of the morning.

“It is for this reason that, apart from the normal operations that we will be conducting throughout the week, we are going to be tough especially from Thursdays to Sundays,” said Kaunda.

He said that the police will not only maintain high visibility during the holidays, but they will conduct law enforcement operations throughout the year so that KwaZulu-Natal can reduce road crashes and fatalities.

Ends.

Media contacts:

Mluleki Mntungwa: 060 974 1140/ 060 651 1138/ Mluleki.Mntungwa@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi [081 018 0518](tel:0810180518)/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport