



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC KAUNDA INCREASES POLICE VISIBILITY ON THE ROAD FOR REED DANCE CEREMONY

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has warned bus operators and drivers who will be ferrying maidens to the annual reed dance ceremony in Nongoma this weekend that the Department will leave nothing to chance to ensure that maidens travel safely.

Today, Kaunda embarked on a bus inspection exercise in Durban to ascertain the roadworthiness of buses that will be transporting over 45 000 maidens to the cultural extravaganza at King Zwelithini's Enyokeni Royal Palace.

In 2013, the province experienced a tragic bus crash in Eshowe where 12 maidens died after the driver lost control of the bus, resulting in it capsizing.

Kaunda said that about 3000 law enforcement officers will be deployed on all the routes leading to Nongoma. "Our officers will stage 17 roadblocks focusing on drinking and driving, overloading, vehicle roadworthiness, speed, motor and drivers licences," said Kaunda.

Law enforcement officers from municipalities, Road Traffic Inspectorate and SAPS have been put on high alert to monitor closely all points of departure as per the list provided by the Department of Arts and Culture. Law enforcement officers have been instructed to target all vehicles with a special focus on buses travelling towards Nongoma.

Kaunda has appealed to motorists who will be using these routes to be patient as stop and checks will be the order of the day. "Drivers will be randomly tested for alcohol prior to departure. We also want to appeal to bus operators to provide adequate accommodation for their drivers to ensure that they are well rested on departure," said Kaunda.

ENDS.

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