

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

20 August 2019

## MEC KAUNDA VOWS TO INTENSIFY LEARNER TRANSPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda has vowed to intensify learner transport law enforcement operations in the province to save lives of learners.

Yesterday, the traffic police conducted a successful joint law enforcement operation between Ixopo and Highflats.

This operation is the first of its kind targeted specifically to learner transport. The operation was activated subsequent to several reported crashes that occurred around the Harry Gwala District.

Approximately 244 learner transport vehicles were stopped, 25 charges were issued for roadworthiness and 12 vehicles were suspended.

Kaunda has commended the police for their sterling work in ensuring that learners use safe and reliable transport to school. "In the current financial year, learner transport safety is going to be our key area of focus and the department has developed a plan to ensure that law enforcement operations are conducted throughout the year, targeting over 300 schools in the province where we provide this service. Our ultimate goal is to save lives of the 47000 learners we transport daily to and from schools," said Kaunda.

Learner transport is one of the flagship programs for the Department of Transport as it provides much-needed transport to learners traveling more than three kilometres to and from school. It also provides business opportunities to local public transport operators. "These law enforcement operations are also aimed at ensuring that operators comply with all regulations governing the safety of learner," said Kaunda.

**ENDS** 

## Media contacts:

Mluleki Mtungwa: 0609741140 / Mluleki.Mtungwa@kzntransport.gov.za

Kwanele Ncalane: 0728031462 / 0796995755 / Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: <u>www.kzntransport.gov.za</u> Twitter: <u>@KZNTransport</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/kzntransport</u>