



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA STATEMENT

17 January, 2019

MEC KAUNDA VOWS TO STRENGTHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT TO END ROAD CARNAGE

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has welcomed the release of the 2018 Festive Season Road Safety statistics by the Minister of Transport, Dr Blade Nzimande yesterday (16 January 2019).

Kaunda has noted that KwaZulu-Natal recorded 267 crashes and 328 fatalities during the festive season period which ended on 8 January 2019.

Last, year KwaZulu-Natal achieved a 10% decline in road crashes and fatalities by 279 crashes and 324 fatalities. **“While we recorded a slight decrease in the number of crashes this year, we remain concerned about the increase in the number of fatalities,”** said Kaunda.

During the release of the preliminary statistics on 22 December 2018, KwaZulu-Natal was the leading province in the country with both crashes and fatalities.

“This report did not deter us and we continued to work around the clock to ensure that we intensify law enforcement operations throughout the province, particularly on major national and provincial roads,” said Kaunda.

Although KwaZulu-Natal recorded an increase in road fatalities, it did not feature among the provinces that recorded the highest percentage increase. **“This could be attributed to the effort we put after the release of the mid-point festive season statistics,”** said Kaunda.

The MEC has committed the Department to work closely with all stakeholders involved in road safety to ensure that the province reduces road carnages. **“As the KwaZulu-Natal province, we are also going to redouble our efforts in ensuring that the interventions proposed by the Minister to save lives are implemented urgently. These interventions include, among others, the implementation of the AARTO Act and demerit point system. We are also going to fast track the process of reclassification of all road traffic offences to schedule 5 of the Criminal Procedure Act,”** said Kaunda.

He emphasised that of critical importance was to address the driver behaviour as most crashes occurred as a result of human error where motorists ignore road rules.

Ends.

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