

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Monday, 23 September 2019

## MEC NTULI BIDS FAREWELL TO LEARNERS REPRESENTING KZN IN THE NATION ROAD SAFETY DEBATE

The Kwazulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Ntuli has today met to bid farewell to a group of learners that will be representing the province in the National Schools Road Safety Debate.

As part of giving the much-needed moral support, MEC Ntuli, this morning was at the King Shaka International Airport to interact with the group of participants, who are the current provincial winners of the competition – and who have now been selected to represent the province at the national competition in Johannesburg.

Thirty (30) learners from various schools in the province will participate in this national competition which has two main categories namely, the National Road Safety Debate, which takes place on the 24th and the 25th of September 2019 followed by the Participatory Education Techniques (PET) on the 25th and the 27th of September 2019.

In wishing them well, MEC Ntuli said he is inspired and assured of a generation of new drivers with a mind-set change.

"With these initiatives, the Department aims to educate learners about road safety issues in a bid to reduce the levels of crashes and fatalities. This programme is giving true meaning to our endeavor of building a new generation of drivers who respects traffic laws. In isiZulu, they say Lugotshwa lusemanzi."

"This group should inspire even other learners and young people in general to become ambassadors of change who will teach others that road safety is indeed our collective responsibility," said Ntuli.

The Road Safety Debate project aims to create road safety awareness through dialogue amongst high school learners. This programme that is driven by the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) is aimed at affording learners from grade 10 and grade 11 to participate in debates with the hope of persuading those holding a differing view to conform and discuss controversial issues.

This project has three categories which are Rural, Urban and Special needs to the scope of knowledge and experience in different social environments. The Schools representing the province are Tugela High School, Pietermaritzburg Girls High School, Kemont Special school, Intuthuko Special School, Udumo High School and Amahlubi High School.

## Media contacts:

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>