**The arrest of 44 motorists in Estcourt just in two days is a clear indication of how RTI plans to execute the #NenzaniLaEzweni Operation this festive season: Duma says there is no turning back and has given RTI and Operation Shanela teams a mandate to clean up our road networks ahead of the festive season**

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma.

18 October 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: The arrest of 44 motorists for drunk driving in Estcourt in just two days is a clear indication of our determination to clean up our road network this festive season.

Those arrested in Estcourt last night include the following:-

- 2 Teachers
- 1 Chief Education Specialist
- 1 Nurse
- 1 Graphic Designer
- 2 Taxi Drivers
- 2 Truck Drivers
- 2 Salesmen
- 2 Self Employed
- 1 Car Mechanic and called himself Manufacturer
- 4 Unemployed
- 1 Admin Clerk
- 1 Site Supervisor
- 1 Security Officer
- 1 Driver
- 1 Branch manager

We salute the most efficient, energized Road Traffic Inspectorate Team that has been executing #NenzaniLaEzweni operations in Estcourt, Newcastle, Nquthu, Dundee, and other areas.

As we countdown to December, RTI will be rolling out the #NenzaniLaEzweni Operation in various parts of the province.

Since we launched this operation last year in August, we have arrested close to 7000 motorists for drunk driving. We removed such reckless motorists from our road networks before they could kill innocent road users.

Because of our beautiful weather, KwaZulu-Natal will once again see an influx of holidaymakers. As they come to this province, we want to assure them of their safety on the roads. The work has started now, as we observe Transport Month.

We are therefore warning those that will take a chance on the roads that RTI and Operation Shanela teams will have no mercy.

With a new team of energized RTI officers undergoing training, we want to ensure comprehensive coverage and visibility of law enforcement on our roads this festive season.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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