



Official Newsletter of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport

January 2005 edition

MEC promises more roadblocks to nab lawless motorists

CAMPAIGN RESULTS IN REDUCTION OF ACCIDENTS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

KwaZulu-Natal Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Bheki Cele has promised more road blocks to enforce his department's 100% Compliance Campaign.

The Department's multi-pronged festive season road safety campaign resulted in a sig-

nificant reduction in the number of accidents over this period.

At the road blocks motorists may have found themselves face to face with Cele and the Department's CEO, Dr Kwazi

Mbanjwa, who took the time to be present at the late night law enforcement operations.

One of the reasons for the campaign's success was the co-operation of other agencies such as the National

Prosecuting Authority, SAPS and local traffic authorities.

Speaking at a road block near



MEC Bheki Cele with CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa using the card verification device



MEC Bheki Cele and CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa test the mofatouch device with a member of the South African Police Service.

Pietermaritzburg, Cele promised motorists further road blocks to weed out unroad-worthy vehicles, illegal drivers as well as general criminals.

"Today we commit ourselves to saving the lives of our people," said Cele.

The road block, like others held throughout the province, resulted in several arrests for drunken driving, possession of stolen vehicles, as well as the possession of illegal weapons.

Interestingly, the road block helped capture Mandla Duma who has been on the run for robbery for the past seven years. Two motorists, driving under the influence of alcohol attempted to flee the long arm of the law but were swiftly apprehended.

Cele said these road blocks will continue throughout 2005.

RTI Information Centre provided the following statistics:

01/12 2004 - 16/01/2005

Total Number of crashes

211

Total Number of deaths

243

Driver fatalities

49

Passenger fatalities

75

Pedestrian fatalities

119

Pedestrians warned to adhere to road safety laws

The National Minister of Transport, Jeff Radebe together with MEC Bheki Cele and CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa visited Groutville over the festive period, where two traffic officers were assaulted by some members of the community.

The RTI received complaints that members of the community in the area were obstructing traffic by selling fruit on the road. On arrival at the scene the officers were attacked by the sellers.

"We appeal to you today to use the kiosk provided to sell your products. It is against the law to sell on the road. Many lives have been lost on our roads," was the advice from Radebe. He also encouraged Traffic Inspectors as well as the South African Police to continue with their good work in apprehending pedestrians who do not adhere to road safety rules. "All South Africans are obliged to uphold laws regardless of who they are. Pedestrian injuries and fatalities are the highest on our roads and it is our duty as law enforcers to make sure that everyone is safe on the roads," said Radebe.

However, MEC Bheki Cele warned community members to obey the rules of the road and to use the pedestrian bridges provided. "There are bridges in most of these areas but pedestrians cross the freeways illegally. People complain that

they have to walk a few metres to get to these bridges, but I would rather have them walk a few extra metres than to cause accidents or die on the roads," said Cele.

119 pedestrians were killed on the roads over the past December/ January festive period.

During the high level visit to Groutville, several people were arrested for crossing the freeway.

"119 pedestrian deaths is a very large number, 'Operation Siyabaqoqa' will continue throughout the year so that people will not cross where they are not supposed to. The Department has embarked on numerous awareness campaigns to educate people about road safety laws, which is why all those breaking the law will be severely dealt with," concluded Mbanjwa.



Minister of Transport Jeff Radebe, MEC Bheki Cele with Transport CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa talking to pedestrians who were caught crossing the freeway



Street Vendors illegally selling their goods on the roadside after being provided with a place to sell their produce.



Department of Transport leads the country in mission directed work teams

By CHRIS HLABISA

The vision of the KZN Department of Transport 'Prosperity through Mobility' is short and simple, but is packed with meaning.

First and foremost, in the context of our business it means the same as the overall vision of the public service, which is to "IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS" through transportation.

This vision is realised through the implementation of our key strategic focus areas which are: saving lives, developing people, infrastructure and the economy, ensuring value for money and practising good governance.

In carrying out our core business, we also have a responsibility to alleviate poverty and ensure rural development. Therefore our core business includes the provision of a safe, balanced and equitable Provincial Road Network, Road Traffic Safety, Traffic Law Administration in the licensing of both vehicles and drivers, Public Transport Regulation and Good Governance.

In 1997, the White Paper on Public Service transformation which included

the *Batho Pele* principles was implemented.

Officials were taught the principles of *Batho Pele* and implementation action plans were developed.

We enjoyed pockets of excellence winning some of the highest accolades in the Province at the time: the Premier's gold award as well as one of the silver awards. It soon became apparent that whilst we enjoyed the success of those pockets of excellence, meaningful transportation through the organisation was not being achieved.

There was no fundamental change in the organisational culture and it was still 'business as usual.' The programme lacked mechanisms to



Chief Director of Implementation Chris Hlabisa (on the left) talking to the Minister of Transport Jeff Radebe (middle) and MEC Bheki Cele

This is an extract from a presentation that was made by KZN Transport Department Chief Director of Implementation, Mr Chris Hlabisa, in Pretoria for the Batho Pele Learning Network recently. Hlabisa is the first black national vice president for the South African Road Federation(SARF)

engage front-line staff in the business. Therefore there was no evidence of success or failure in our service delivery.

Historically officials had not been exposed to a climate of participation, nor had they been given the 'tools', skills and authority to

of apathy and mere compliance to rules and regulations. We knew what we were aiming for, but we just did not know HOW to get there. We required a holistic transformation mechanism that addressed commitment of staff, systematic improvement of processes and leadership development so that world-class service delivery could be achieved.

We were known for laziness, high levels of absenteeism, lack of responsibility and accountability and of not being proactive. We needed to find ways to capture the hearts and minds of our team members.

We are Public servants NOT government employees - the largest machinery when it comes to service delivery and we are the public face of government. We need to change, not tomorrow, not today, but NOW!

meaningfully meet the requirements of each Batho Pele Principle. They did not participate in decision-making.

We had to find a way that would help team members break the bonds

Department continues setting the pace

ACCOLADES ADD TO THE RICH LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Schnell was recently elected Honorary Life Vice President of the Institute for Traffic and Municipal Police Officers of South Africa.

This portfolio was bestowed upon him at the Annual General Meeting held in Port Elizabeth, in recognition of the contribution he has made to road traffic safety and policing.

"I feel very honoured to be given this recognition by my peers and I will treasure it forever," said Schnell.

At the moment there are only five Honorary Life Vice Presidents in the country.

RTI Durban Region, was also given the Good Governance Award by the Premier recently for its great achievement in the principles of good governance.

Their secret is to ask members of the community for their input and criticism. They use this to build themselves up to deliver better

service.

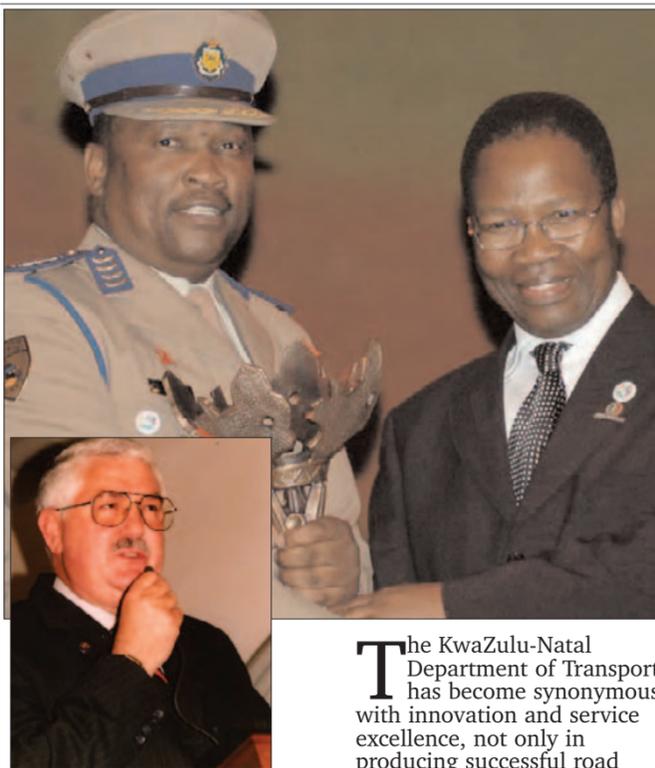
RTI Durban Regional Commander Shadrack Nxumalo said that they would not have received the award if it was not for the co-operation and dedication of staff. "We now have a greater challenge to go for the gold award," said Nxumalo. Another achievement for this Department was earning a national accolade, as the Communication Support Directorate was selected as a finalist in the annual Government Communicator's awards.

Introduced by the Minister in the Office of the Presidency, Dr Essop Pahad in 2002, the competition aims to recognise and encourage excellence and innovation in government communication. Both internal and external newsletters, *Ezethu News* and *Igalelo* as well as the Department's website, were selected from among 30 other government



Dr Essop Pahad, Minister in the Presidency, handing over the awards to Acting Director of Communication Support Directorate, Logan Maistry

department submissions and ranked second in the country. Acting Director: Communication Support, Logan Maistry accepted the award on behalf of the department at a ceremony at Gallagher Estate, hosted by Pahad.



TOP: KZN Premier Sibusiso Ndebele shakes hands with RTI Durban Regional Commander Shadrack Nxumalo during the Good Governance Awards held at the ICC Durban, recently

INSET: Director:Road Traffic Inspectorate John Schnell

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has become synonymous with innovation and service excellence, not only in producing successful road safety programmes, but across all spheres of the public sector. This exemplary track record was given a further boost recently with several accolades being added to the Department's mantle.

Director of the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) John



Tragic beginning to summer holidays



The anticipated celebration of the summer holidays ended in tragedy when nine members of the Mtakati family, including relatives, were killed instantly in a crash between their car and a truck.

The accident occurred in the Free State. Mike Mtakati (43) a former journalist, his wife Rita (42), two children - Thozama (14) and Luvuyo (10), five extended family members Nokukhanya (21), Yolanda (8 months), Nonkululeko (15), Nokubonga Cele (7) and Sinikiwe Vilakazi (12), were all burnt beyond recognition.

The death of the nine family members is a setback for the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, the KZN Transport Department and other law enforcement agencies. These organisations had worked extremely hard over the festive season to prevent such

tragedies.

Officially, the death toll on the roads in KwaZulu-Natal decreased compared to 2003. More than 20 500 drivers were prosecuted for speeding, 381 for drunken driving and 1 050 unroadworthy vehicles were removed from KZN roads.

Addressing mourners at the funeral held at the King's Park Stadium, KZN Transport Department CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa said: "I again urge drivers to be responsible and to commit themselves to saving lives - any killings on the roads should not be seen as culpable homicide but as murder," he said.

Commenting on the loss of Mtakati, an Anglo Platinum spokesperson said: "We have lost not only a colleague but also a dear friend - Mike will be missed dearly."



Transport CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa offers his condolences to family members and friends who were at the funeral.



An undertaker carries the coffin of eight-month-old baby Yolanda Cele



Funeral procession of Mike Mtakati

REPORT BAD DRIVING

Call **MPIMPA** Hotline

086 221 1010

Your voice can save lives!





Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC, Bheki Cele and Transport CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa at various developments and projects, in 2004.





“Defending the weak” especially women and children is the Department of Transport’s motto which is why the department held various programmes to ensure that this happens.





PRESENTATION BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE ROAD SAFETY MEDIA BRIEFING HELD AT THE HILTON HOTEL, DURBAN ON THURSDAY, 20 JANUARY 2005.

Nationally, and provincially there has been a reduction in road deaths during the past festive season, as compared to the same period during 2003. This has been attributed to a number of factors, including the high level of visibility of law enforcement officers, Operation Juggernaut, 100% compliance, Omela eKhaya and so on.

For KZN, for the period 1 December 2004 to 16 January 2005, the figures are as follows:

	2003	2004	% REDUCTION
Total Number of Crashes	240	211	12% Reduction
Total Number of Fatalities	293	243	17% Reduction
Number of Driver Fatalities	49	49	Unchanged
Number of Passenger Fatalities	95	75	21% Reduction
Number of Pedestrian Fatalities	149	119	20% Reduction
Deaths on national / provincial / district Roads	138	133	3% Reduction
Deaths on municipal Streets	175	109	37% Reduction

ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

- * To date 381 drivers have been arrested for drunk driving, as compared to 120 in 2003.
- * 1 140 Drivers were arrested for speeding, and 11 for reckless and negligent driving.
- * Motorists were charged for more than 36 000 traffic offences, and 1 050 vehicles were suspended for unroadworthiness.
- * RTI Officers alone worked a total of about 120 000 hours and patrolled 795 911 kilometres.
- * This resulted in KZN achieving a 17% reduction in road fatalities and a 12% reduction in road crashes during the past festive season as compared to 2003.

Our success as the KZN Department of Transport lies with the commitment and dedication displayed by our law enforcement officers, and other relevant stakeholders. However, I wish to reiterate that one death on our roads, is still one too many.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ROAD BLOCKS

The two major multi-disciplinary roadblocks held in Pietermaritzburg and Durban on the 10th and 11th December 2004, in which all law enforcement agencies participated resulted in 201 drunk drivers being arrested in just two days. This sent a very strong message to the motoring public that we mean business, and will not tolerate drunk driving in KwaZulu-Natal. More than 600 law enforcement personnel took part in each roadblock.

ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC OFFICERS

The deployment of 82 newly qualified traffic officers who graduated on 15th December 2004, after six months of intensive training, did much to boost morale and to increase our ability to deliver targeted law enforcement services.

SAPS RESERVISTS

A pilot project was held in Pietermaritzburg where SAPS reservist officers were deployed on a daily basis to patrol together with RTI officers. This increased the number of patrol units available for enforcement and improved efficiency. This project will be rolled out to other areas for the forthcoming Easter period.

CARD VERIFICATION DEVICES (CVD'S)

This state of the art technology added tremendous clout to the improved data available to law enforcement officers at the roadside. A few of these devices were also made available to SAPS accident units province-wide. With this device officers are able to check:

CCF Driving Licences	Licence Discs	Transport Permits
VIN Numbers	Chassis Numbers	ID Numbers
Photographs and driver particulars		

PEDESTRIANS

More than 420 pedestrians were arrested for walking on freeways. In this regard, problem areas still exist. More education programmes will be implemented. Also, more remedial engineering measures will be put in place to pedestrian proof national roads at certain areas such as the N2 Prospecton and S J Smith Hostel area.

ROADSIDE COURTS

Four roadside courts were in operation on the N3 at Cato Ridge and Bergville, and the N2 at Umdhloti and Park Rynie. Since 1 December 2004, more than 980 motorists appeared before the Magistrates at the various roadside courts. Certain roadside courts will be in session this weekend and will continue up until 31st January 2005.

FREIGHT TRANSPORT INCIDENTS

The cost of delays to the economy caused by roads that have to be closed due to "Lost Loads", is substantial and the inconvenience is frustrating. One of many such incidents occurred on the N3 between Bergville and Tugela River, where a heavy motor vehicle laden with beer bottles dropped about 22 cases of beer onto the roadway, resulting in the N3 (southbound) carriageway being closed for almost six hours for a clean-up operation.

TRADING ON FREEWAYS

A law enforcement exercise was held at the Mvoti Toll Plaza where 36 fruit vendors were arrested and charged for being on the freeway, as well as for trading alongside the roadway.

CO-OPERATIVE JUSTICE

As of 1 January 2005, the prescribed admission of guilt fines throughout KZN have been increased, and approved accordingly by the respective Chief Magistrates.

R617 BOSTON/BULWER SUCCESS

The R617 has been accident free since 1 December 2004, due to the deployment of the Public Transport Enforcement Unit (PTEU) along this route. Buses and taxis conveying mainly migrant workers to and from Gauteng and other provinces mainly use this route.

MOST RECENT SPEEDING CONVICTION

Mr. Anthony Mckleary of Pietermaritzburg was arrested on Sunday (16/01/2005) after he was caught speeding at 220 km/h with a Suzuki motorcycle on the N2 at Ellingham. He also did not have a valid motorcycle licence and was arrested. He appeared in the Scottburgh Magistrates Court on 19/01/2005 and was fined R20 000 or six months imprisonment suspended for five years. He was ordered to immediately deposit R8 000 into the Tsunami Disaster Fund.

CONCLUSION

Finally, ladies and gentlemen allow me to ask you a question? Do you think everything in your life is perfect as it is? Or are there some changes you would make if you had the chance? If the answer is "yes" then you have everything you need to be a road safety activist. Let us spread the message of road safety and reduce road carnage. Join us in our efforts to save lives. In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a safe 2005.

New road marks beginning of new things for Mbhulelweni community



The year looks promising for the community of Mbhulelweni under the Sisonke Municipality, near Donnybrook, following the launch of a road that is creating jobs for the unemployed local people. The Sisonke municipality together with MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bheki Cele opened a 3.2 kilometre road recently. The road was constructed over a period of four months at a cost of almost R794 000.

Innocent Miya Ingwe Municipality mayor (left), MEC Bheki Cele (centre) and Sisonke Municipality Mayor Patrick Khoza at the official opening of the Mbhulelweni Road

The project created 100 jobs for the community, 61 of which were filled by local women.

Speaking during the official opening of the road, Cele said: "Premier Sibusiso Ndebele has instructed us to construct roads that lead to all schools, clinics and agricultural amenities, and I'm very proud to be here, delivering these expectations."

The Sisonke District Municipality, together with the Department of Transport has agreed to assimilate this project under the Department's Zibamele road maintenance programme that has earned national acclaim due to its success in providing jobs for

the jobless and the poorest of the poor.

The event attracted scores of residents who came to witness the start of the project.

Commenting on the value of the road, community member Sibanisizwe Mahlaba pointed out: "I'm overjoyed about all these developments, especially the road - my son can now reach school on time."

"This project is another indication of our government's resolve at strengthening our commitment to bring hope to those communities most in need, so that they too can have just cause to celebrate a better life for all," said Cele.

Although the road is a cul-de-sac, it is going to benefit the community of Mbhulelweni by enabling them to access schools, markets and other services.

Feather on taxi industry cap as KZN celebrates a reduction in road carnage

Signs of maturity and commitment in adhering to traffic rules became evident in the province, particularly in the taxi industry, as it proved its potential in providing a safer public transport service during the festive season.



MEC Bheki Cele and CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa

The taxi industry which has over the years of democratic governance moved closer to collaborating with government and traffic enforcement agencies in upholding safe conduct on KZN roads was clearly praised by the KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bheki Cele, Department CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa, and Road Traffic Inspectorate manager John Schnell. Speaking during a media briefing, Dr Mbanjwa said the government law enforcement agencies in the form of the RTI, local traffic enforcement agencies and the SAPS pulled out all the stops in ensuring that the rate of carnage on provincial roads was reduced significantly. "A lot of effort went into it - like commanders of an army, we went all out to ensure that road users uphold the traffic

laws," he said. Mbanjwa decried the increased presence of ordinary vehicle and public transport drivers who were without drivers' licences, including bus drivers. "You can't take the lives of 79 people and put them in the hands of one person who is unqualified," he warned. He also cited the following incidents: a taxi overturned because of a burst tyre, another taxi had the wrong number plates and no brakes. He recalled how a driver was charged R20 000 after attempting to run away. "On the whole, I'm proud of what KZN achieved - now lets work towards a safer Easter," he said.





Access roads ensure gateway to infrastructure



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport will this year focus on the construction of access roads to ensure all communities have access to government services. The absence of these roads in some areas prevent citizens, particularly rural people, from enjoying the fruits of democracy. For instance, in some areas, children cannot reach their schools when rivers are in flood. Elaborating on the significance of the project, MEC Bheki Cele said that the dire need for these roads were illustrated ahead of last year's general election when the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) requested the Department to build roads that would allow people access to certain schools that were being used as voting stations.

Meanwhile, the people of Eghudeni near Nquthu are beginning to reap the rewards of the Department's investment in infrastructure. Two months ago, three spheres of government; national, provincial and local, visited this previously neglected, yet rich in heritage community, and injected about R8 million into the project of tarring 9km of the D1566 road. The project was proposed by the local municipality. The National Treasury responded with the funding through the National Department of Transport and now the Provincial Department will monitor the implementation phase. Chief Director of Implementation, Chris Hlabisa, confirmed that the project is already underway and has been welcomed by the community.

The recent sod turning ceremony attracted thousands of villagers who welcomed national Transport Minister Jeff Radebe together with Cele. Local community leaders thanked government for the initiative saying that proper road infrastructure would help consolidate their plans to build schools and multi-purpose centres, as well as encourage agricultural development. The community leaders also revealed research which shows that the area has the potential to support the cultivation of grapes, which in turn would support the establishment of a wine industry. Apparently, the climate is similar to the Cape's, and it has been found that grapes grown here ripen three weeks ahead of the ones in the Cape.



Minister Jeff Radebe and MEC Bheki Cele at a Road opening at Nquthu

Nquthu community had this to say...



Qhutshiwe Cebekhulu

My life has improved after the introduction of Zibambele by the Department of Transport. After my husband passed away things became difficult. I now can educate my children and feed them. My only request is a salary increase. This road is going to be built by the Zibambele women.



Qapheleni Nxumalo

I am grateful that with the construction of this road I will now be able to educate my children and provide food for my family. My request is for an increase.



Tshidi Motoung

The construction of the road has assisted in decreasing the number of accidents and road safety signs teach school children the rules of the road. We are very excited as there is no dust on the road.



Hleziphi Zulu

The programme has assisted me in educating my children and feeding my family. Now I can even save money.



Mpho Sikhosana

The building of this road will increase the need for motorists and the community to commit themselves to road safety.



Nomayini Mazibuko

I am a bread winner and the head of my family. This programme has enabled me to provide food for my family.



Cele takes to the streets to hear what people say about crime and road safety



MEC Bheki Cele walked the streets of Durban teaching people about road safety and crime awareness

It is not often that a MEC takes to the streets to talk to people about safety, crime and road carnage.

KZN Transport, Community Safety & Liaison MEC Bheki Cele led an on-foot fact finding mission along the streets of Durban to establish how the public and business felt about the rate of crime in relation to police presence, vigilance and visibility.

Cele said the mood he got from the ground was one of satisfaction about the levels of preparedness on the part of the police to

protect them from crime.

He pointed out: "The people we spoke to said they are expecting better holidays after a long time - thanks to a revamped SAPS performance in the streets. It seems that the only persistent problem is pick-pocketing."

"We are satisfied that there are many initiatives which see private security companies working in collaboration with the SAPS to protect members of the public and business this summer," Cele added.



Passing out parade



Cyril Knoesen: Chief Traffic Officer and MEC Bheki Cele after the passing out parade held at the YMCA in PMB recently .

The Traffic Training College can be proud that 82 of the 96 students who enrolled for the Traffic Officers Diploma passed; eight of them gaining distinctions in all subjects.

"The Traffic Officer's Diploma course is no easy course and to those who have not made it, I want to encourage you not to give up but try again," said MEC Bheki Cele, who also insisted upon an increased intake of females to the course as only 15% of the total intake last year were female.

The six month course is broken into various categories including: National Road Traffic Act, systematic vehicle checks, basic accident recording, etc. The exams comprise both theory and practical components.

"I wish to congratulate everyone of you who will now be assisting us in saving lives as well as facilitating a people's contract for a safer KwaZulu-Natal," concluded Cele.

Religions meet to pray for peace on the roads



More than 26 000 people from various denominations gathered in Empangeni last month to pray for safety on our roads.

MEC Bheki Cele invited a number of religious leaders to pray for an accident free festive season all over KwaZulu-Natal. Empangeni was chosen as the venue as a result of the high number of road accidents that had occurred in the area during 2004.

Addressing the massive crowd,

Cele appealed to motorists to commit themselves to obey the rules of the road. He encouraged people to drink at home and for the community to report reckless drivers on the Mpimpa Hotline with the aim of eliminating road fatalities.

"I see churches as a better forum to convey the road safety message - we may believe in different Gods but the issue of road safety affects us all," said Cele.

The road safety campaign was supported by Metro Rail, which

From left to right are Transport CEO Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa, MEC Bheki Cele, gospel musician Deborah Fraser and Manager of Road Safety Thoko Mabaso lighting candles at a prayer meeting.

provided trains from different areas of KwaZulu-Natal for people to attend the day of prayer.

In support of the road safety initiative, Premier Foods donated 50 bags of mealie-meal to be distributed among needy families who lost their loved ones on the roads.

Speaking to *Igelelo*, Premier Foods Regional Executive Manager, Pinky Nzimande said that the gesture forms part of the company's social responsibility programme, "where we want to join hands and speak with one voice, which is to save lives."



Members of all religious communities gathered to pray for peace on our roads.

Catch us on the radio

Ukhozi FM's Transport Ibandla Tuesdays 8pm - 9pm

P4's Straight talk Thursdays 6.30pm - 7pm

How to contact us

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