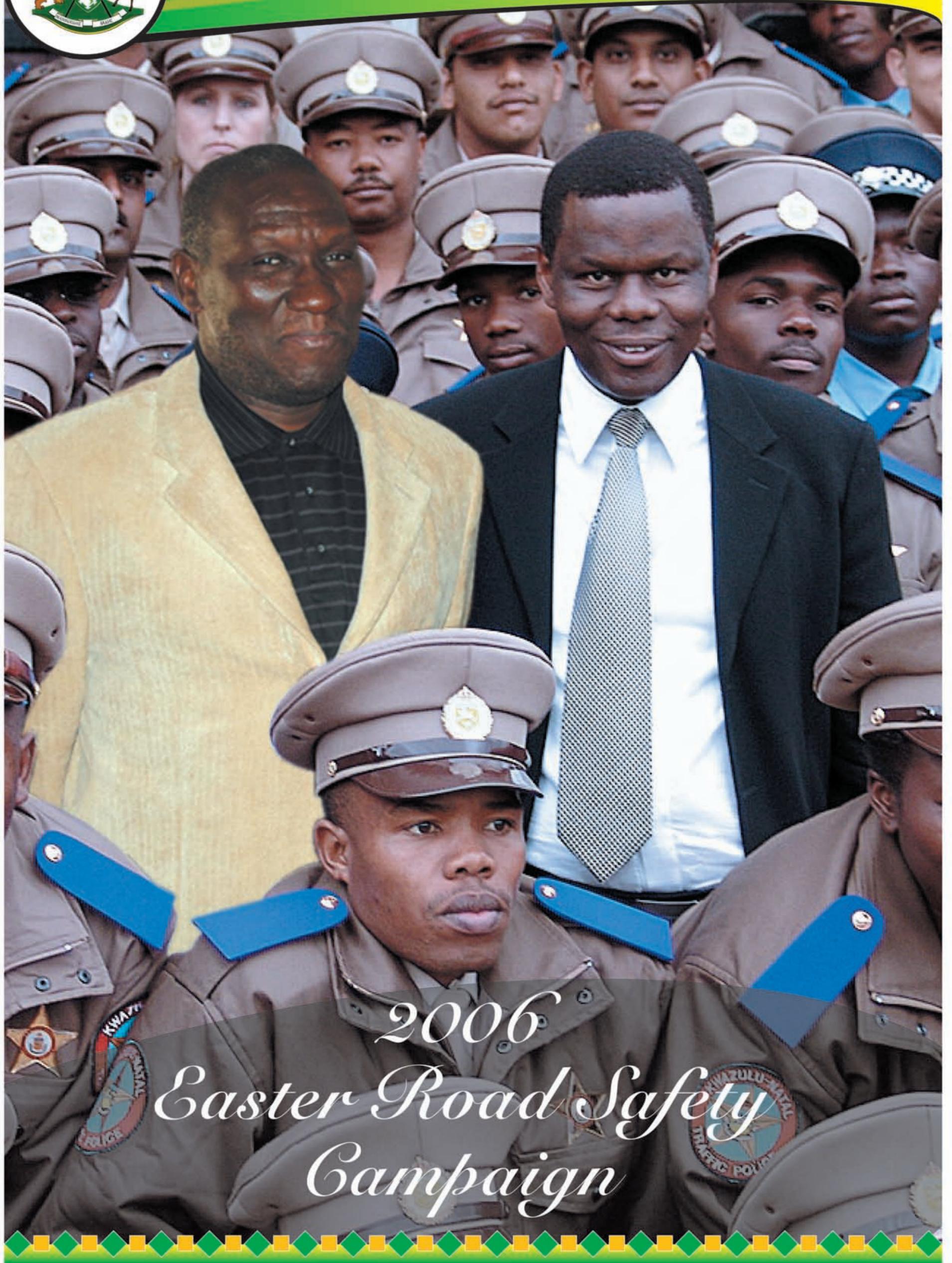


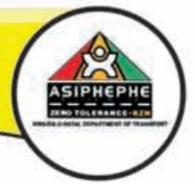


DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

KWAZULU-NATAL



2006
*Easter Road Safety
Campaign*



Message from KwaZulu Natal MEC of Transport, Mr B H Cele



Mr Bheki Cele

Many people, especially the young are bored with history, they believe that we are living in the present and history is the past. But without a sense of the past, we cannot make sense of the present and construct the future.

History is profoundly important to make sense of the carnage that often ensues on our roads during

Easter. In this province, at the beginning of the twentieth century, through colonial dispossession and numerous taxes many of our people were forced to seek work on the mines of the Witwatersrand. African males were uprooted from their normal habitats and separated from their families (they were not allowed to take their wives and children to the mines). Most of them if they were lucky, saw their families once a year. Added to this is the fact that universities were placed in desolate places increasing the distance between families.

Today the separation created by colonialism and apartheid persists, and so a significant group of our citizens make their way 'back home' a couple times a year. It is during this period that families and communities torn apart by history reconstitute themselves. All over the country people like this are on the move. Unlike the December break, this is just a weekend and people often do not make the necessary preparations and rely on speed to ensure a longer time with their families and friends.

This is a recipe for disaster made all the more dangerous by the fact that the apartheid regime paid no attention to the roads that led to villages and

towns of Black people. Do not misunderstand my import, we do not look to the past to excuse the present but to make sense of the present and put in policies to redress inequalities.

One of the tasks of my portfolio is to spend a considerable amount of resources in making our rural road networks safer. To many these improvements are invisible, but to the thousands who have benefited they are a lifeline. So now when people turn off the highway they are not met with paths masquerading as roads but with tarred roads and space for pedestrians.

There is much to do, but we are confronting the legacy of the past. We have also tried to focus a lot of energy on trucks and busses, ensuring that there are rest areas and frequent inspections for their roadworthiness.

We will never stem the flow of traffic given our history and this has been exacerbated by the tens of thousands who come to the province as an inexpensive accessible and beautiful holiday destination.

These changing dynamics means we have to have a road safety policy that's constantly reviewed. In this context with thousands of extra vehicles on the road what was workable at the dawn of our democracy needs updating and enhancing.

But the old causes of accidents are there:

- * Drunken driving
- * Speeding
- * vehicles that are not roadworthy
- * unlicensed drivers
- * younger owners of cars and therefore more inexperienced drivers
- * drugs that are hard to pick up and therefore add to toxic mix

One criticism that we must make of ourselves is that we tend to react to patterns of road behaviour. Our policies should develop the capacity to influence patterns before they emerge. Given the emergence of younger drivers with access to faster cars:

- * Would the roll out of a comprehensive pre-driver education be worthwhile?
- * Would limiting the age of those able to drive what are tantamount to 'racing cars' to over 21 make sense or would that curtail an individual's personal rights?
- * Is there reason for new legislation around baby seats and child restraints?

It would be wonderful to begin a provincial and national dialogue on these issues.

It is ridiculous to higher expectation that there is some textbook we can consult or some code we can decipher that will solve our challenges in road safety. However, this is not a recipe for complacency, rather it is a call for zealotry to keep up the steady improvement we have achieved over many years.

Ensuring this means:

- * Involving everyone we can
- * Using new technology
- * Debating new legislation
- * Improving measures to control speed and manage traffic
- * Working hard to improve our communication of the latest ways to improve road safety

For those of you on the road, it would be wonderful to hear from you about ways in which you think we can improve in all areas of our work.

Buckle Up, follow the road rules and enjoy a wonderful Easter in KwaZulu Natal.

THATH' ISKOROKORO

Analysis of Statistics : Busses

Region One – Empangeni and Surrounding Areas

Busses Inspected	: 255
Unroadworthy	: 111
Presentation	: 4
Impounds	: 15

A 45% of non compliance to roadworthiness was displayed in Region one

Region Two – Ladysmith and Surrounding Areas

Busses Inspected	: 231
Unroadworthy	: 139
Presentation	: 10
Impounds	:

A 64% of non compliance to roadworthiness was displayed in Region Two

Region Three – Pietermaritzburg & Surrounding Areas

Busses inspected	: 184
Unroadworthy	: 62
Presentation	: 14
Impounds	: 1

A 41% of non compliance to roadworthiness was displayed in Region Three

Region Four – Durban and Surrounding Areas

Busses Inspected	: 394
Unroadworthy	: 181
Presentation	: 10
Impounds	: 1

A 48% of non compliance to roadworthiness was displayed in Region Four.

A Total number of 1077 busses were inspected Province wide of which only 50% was roadworthy.

Newsorthy Incidents:

- * An inspection conducted at a depot in Mayville uncovered three illegal busses.
- * An inspection conducted at a Durban depot resulted in three suspected stolen busses being recovered.
- * A large amount of Mandrax tablets was confiscated and the bearer of the drugs charged for possession in a Durban roadside block. The bearer was a passenger on a bus.
- * Operations also resulted in the arrest of ten drunk drivers.
- * An unlicensed firearm with the serial number filed off was recovered at a Durban roadside block. The person in possession of the firearm was arrested by SAPS.
- * A stolen vehicle (LDV) was recovered at a Durban roadside block. The vehicle had no form of identification i.e. no chassis or engine number was located. The vehicle was dealt with by the S.A.P.S.



Message from Head of Department, Dr K B Mbanjwa

The Road Map to Safer Behaviour

The Easter weekend is historically a period in which religious people reflect on the historical drama that took place during the life, crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, while it is a time which reminds us that Christ sacrificed his life for all of humanity, presently, it unfortunately has become a time in which road users are sacrificing so many people in their quest to reach their destination in the shortest possible time. Christ sacrificed his life to save humanity. Many road users are sacrificing others. Christ's actions were selfless; road users' actions are becoming increasingly selfish.



Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa

While Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey, today road users are traveling around in high-powered cars considering themselves invincible surrounded by air bags. While protecting themselves they often bring death and destruction to others. For some time traffic officers almost instinctively pulled over cars and bakkies that were old and tended to ignore the expensive and new. But the latter are extremely fast, are driven by people with limited knowledge of the power of their own cars and have neglected to take extra courses on offer to develop the necessary skills to handle these cars. While not neglecting the older vehicles with their threadbare tyres and overloads, our law enforcement officers are on a sharp lookout for the coffin on wheels – the vehicles that cruise at 220km an hour. So be very careful in KwaZulu Natal for we have your number in

more ways than one. We have diligent citizens who will tip us off through our **Mpimpa hotline**, cameras that will photograph you no matter your speed and law enforcement officers with high-tech communication that will enable them to locate you at the press of a button.

We are not on the cusp of finding a new piece of technology or some traffic management system that is going to dramatically curtail road deaths. Neither is it about a few of us coming up with a magical plan that we then get people to implement. Our modus operandi is to harness all the latest research, the wisdom of road users and technology to progressively and collectively work towards shared targets and goals. This is the secret, I think of our continuous improvements at all levels. We have a journey still, to travel together, but I get a deep sense and research lends credence to this, the journey for all of us has got safer.

The Easter weekend is probably the holiest and most profound on the Christian calendar. It would be a wonderful recognition of this time of prayer and reflection if all of us err to the side of caution, sacrifice speed for safety and exercise tolerance over road-rage.

The only people allowed to be **Zero Tolerant** in this period are the custodians of our roads. Play within the rules and you will find a province that is Africa's capital

of playfulness, from the peaks of the mighty Drakensberg to the thunder of the Albert Falls, the depth of the Oribi Gorge, the warmth of the Indian Ocean and the tranquility of St Lucia.

The build-up to the Easter weekend also bears witness to one of the most auspicious times on the Hindu calendar. On the 13th April Hindu's celebrate Hanuman Jayanthee. Hanuman is a revered saint and has given strength to tens of thousands of Hindu's in our province.

On the 14th of April is the Tamil New Year. The Tamil community has maintained a culture centuries old and has become a vital link in our provinces's burgeoning relationship with India.

What a better homage to the birth of Hanuman and a new year than to go out of our way to avoid death and destruction over the weekend.

Remember the journeys of the revered religious figures were guided by the hand of God. We mere mortals need to be guided by the rules of road safety.

Failure to do so will land you in the hands of our traffic officers. If that happens may God be with you!

Safe passage on our roads in KwaZulu Natal and Happy Easter.

Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa
Head of Department

OUR EASTER ROAD SAFETY PLAN

Operation Emisa	The national 2006 Easter Road Safety Plans as "Operation Emisa", meaning "stop" in the Sotho language. Loosely interpreted it means that all the authorities will be out in full force to stop accidents, stop deaths, stop injuries and stop offences.
Operation Juggernaut	Targeting the roadworthiness of trucks.
Operation Thath' Iskorokoro	Targeting the roadworthiness of buses and taxis.
Project Blue Light	Law enforcement officers will patrol with their blue lights on during adverse weather conditions and at night.
Lights on Campaign	Encouraging all motorists to drive with their headlamps on during the day.
Operation Tata	Pedestrians will be arrested for being on foot on freeways as well as for being a source of danger to themselves and other road users.
Free Vehicle Roadworthiness Checks	Test centres will be made available and motorists department of transport has dubbed the will be encouraged to make use of these facilities free of charge.
Operation Khipa S'Khoteni	Aimed at freight transport vehicles whereby late night speed enforcement will be conducted.
Helicopter Patrols	Will also be conducted and a Help Centre will be set up on the N3 at Bergville in order to encourage motorists to stop and rest at least every two hours or 200 kilometres.

Our Mpimpa Call Centre (086 221 1010) will be fully operational 24 hours a day and you are urged to report any traffic offence so that action can be taken against those who are guilty.

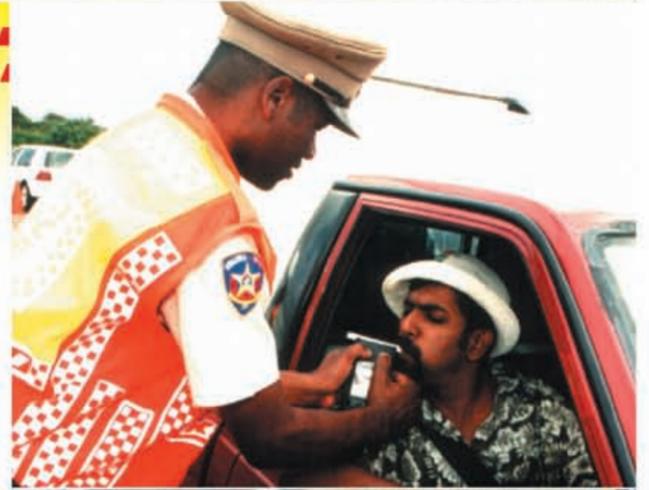
MPIMPA HOTLINE 086 221 1010



*Don't Fool Yourself,
SPEED KILLS*



**Department of Transport
KwaZulu-Natal**



OPERATION KHIPA S'KHOTENI



Department of Transport, KwaZulu-Natal



Call
MPIMPA
Hotline



086 221 1010



Department of Transport
KwaZulu-Natal



PROJECT BLUE LIGHT



YOUR LOCAL HOLIDAY TRIP CHECKLIST

It is in our interest and safety to plan our holiday first before we turn on the car ignition to hit the road. Here's a guide on what you should do for your safety and for the safety of those with you.

A vehicle breakdown can ruin your holiday. So as part of your pre-trip preparation ensure that your vehicle is in top condition. Although it is not possible to guard against all mechanical and electrical faults, doing this considerably reduces the chances of defects occurring.

It is always wise to plan the route in advance. Getting lost will lead to a waste of precious holiday time, frustration and anxiety. All this unnecessarily exposes you to dangers on the road. The best route is one that is the safest, most convenient and with plenty of opportunities for rest to ward off driving fatigue.

Long trips can easily cause driver fatigue - a major cause of accidents. Even if you close your eyes for just half a second it is enough to cause you to veer off the road.

Driver fatigue is a physical as well as mental condition. Often, you are not even aware that you are suffering from fatigue until it is too late. Be on guard for the following signs:

- * Sweaty palms
- * Heavy and sore eyes
- * Blurred or dim vision
- * Droning or humming in the ears
- * Constant yawning
- * General discomfort
- * Deterioration of concentration and slow reactions
- * Poor gear change
- * Inconsistent speed
- * Tendency to drift out of your lane
- * Impatience and temper

If you experience any one of these symptoms, stop at a safe spot to rest.

Ways to avoid or reduce driver fatigue

- * Make sure that you rest well before you embark on your journey
- * Avoid alcohol consumption the night before embarking on a journey
- * Avoid driving when feeling sleepy
- * Be comfortable. Adjust your seat and make sure your back is properly supported. Use a pillow if necessary
- * Sit upright to maintain your spine in an erect position
- * Get your blood circulation going to avoid stiffness. Revolve the wrists; rotate your head periodically to prevent stiff neck; move your left leg up and down while keeping your toes on the floorboard (the left leg gets more tired than the right as it is idle); draw imaginary circles with the toes of your left foot; and at every opportunity, take your right foot off the accelerator and draw imaginary circles with your toes. But do these things only when you think it is safe
- * Take a break at least every two hours
- * At each stop, get out of your car to stretch and exercise your limbs
- * If there's another driver, take turns driving
- * Eat well-balanced meals but exercise restraint. A big meal can induce drowsiness
- * Have water, wet face towels or mist sprays available so that you can refresh yourself when you need to do so
- * Avoid driving for more than eight hours a day

Don't force yourself to continue driving when drowsiness or fatigue sets in. This will only endanger your life and of those with you. Remember, you are on holiday. Don't ruin it by taking uncalled for risks.

AVOIDING PEDESTRIANS

Many road fatalities are caused by accidents wherein pedestrians are involved. Many of these fatalities may be prevented through the application of some basic principles.

The following safety hints should be applied:

Be aware that many informal settlements are situated alongside main roads and that there are no formal points of crossing or pedestrian bridges.

Do not speed near these settlements but be prepared to slow down.

Do not assume that you have been seen.

Be on the lookout for small children

Avoid passing vehicles in the vicinity of these settlements and especially in hazardous driving conditions such as heavy rain or night driving.

If visibility is bad, slow down - avoid driving when your vision is impaired either by strong rain or the blinding headlights of approaching vehicles.

Be on the lookout for pedestrians walking at the side of the road with their backs towards you.

Be aware of intoxicated pedestrians - especially over weekends and near informal settlements.

Be careful near places where busses or taxi's appear to stand next to the road - passengers

might suddenly decide to cross the road!

Always be ready for the unexpected!

Things to remember as a driver:

You can encounter pedestrians anytime and anywhere - even in places where they are not supposed to be found.

Pedestrians can be very hard to see - especially in bad weather or at night. You must keep a lookout and slow down if you can't see clearly.

Stop for pedestrians who are in a crosswalk, even if it is not marked. When you stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, stop well back so that drivers in the other lanes can also see the pedestrian in time to stop.

Cars stopped in the street may be stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross. Do not pass if there is any doubt!

Don't assume that pedestrians see you or that they will act predictably. They may be physically or mentally impaired - or drunk!

When you are turning, you often will have to wait for a "gap" in traffic. Beware that while you are watching for that "gap", pedestrians may have moved into your intended path. Don't run someone down.

Be especially attentive around schools and in neighbourhoods where children are active. Drive there like you would like people to drive in front of your own home!

HOW TO AVOID CONFLICT ON THE ROAD

Keep calm, show restraint: Every car journey brings a risk of frustration and conflict. Before you set off, be determined not to succumb to it.

They're not out to get you: Most aggravating moves by other drivers are unintentional. We all make mistakes. Don't show your frustration by making gestures. They may mean nothing to you but could be the last straw for others.

Don't compete or retaliate: If someone's driving annoys you, don't try to "educate" him or her. Leave traffic policing to the police and driving instruction to professionals.

Be patient in traffic: Don't push into traffic queues. If you wait and clearly signal what you want to do, other drivers will usually let you in. They don't like being forced to do so.

Set an example to others: Give way at busy junctions or where traffic lanes merge; it won't delay your journey by much. Wherever there's merging traffic, follow the rule "let one in and go".

Say thanks: Courtesy encourages co-operative, safe use of the road.

Say sorry: Apologising to the other driver when you make a mistake reduces confrontation and helps to defuse anger.

Violent motoring-related incidents such as road rage are rare. But it is important to know what to do if you feel threatened by another driver.

Try not to react: Avoid making eye contact, which may be seen as confrontational.

Don't respond by accelerating, braking or swerving suddenly: The other driver may think that you are looking for an argument, and you could lose control of the car.

If you think you are being followed: Try to drive to a busy public place or a police station before you stop. If you're on a motorway, mingle with other vehicles.

Don't leave the motorway for unfamiliar roads.

Keep the car doors and boot locked: Also keep the windows and sunroof only partly open in urban areas.

Physical threats: Stay in your car and lock the doors. If you have one, call for help on your mobile phone, and use the car's horn and lights to attract attention.

Never carry any kind of defensive weapon: It could simply provoke a potential assailant.

OPERATION JUGGERNAUT



HOW TO HANDLE AN EMERGENCY!

Coming across an accident while out on the road can be a frightening and stressful experience. Not only is it a dangerous environment to disembark from your vehicle but the sight of injured, bleeding people or children can induce panic in the toughest of people.

Paramedics at Netcare 911 deal with such incidents on a daily basis and are specifically trained and equipped to cope with and treat patients on such scenes. But what happens if you are the first person to come across the accident? What do you do if you actually see the accident happen in front of you? Whom do you call and what do you do first while you wait for the emergency personnel to arrive?

The following segment comprises a few important principles and pieces of advice to help you to calmly, safely and carefully look after yourself, the patients and the accident scene while waiting for the emergency services.

What to do first

Pull your vehicle over

Park in a safe position off the road. Turn on your hazard lights and headlights. (Any and all lighting that may help other motorists see that

there has been an accident and slow down is necessary. Don't put your bright lights on as this may temporarily blind oncoming motorists)

If the accident is on a blind rise or bend, parking your vehicle back from the accident in a 'fend-off' position so vehicles see the accident scene may help prevent further accidents.

Put out your warning triangles if you have them

What to do next

Phone the emergency services

082 911 is the national number which will connect you with Netcare 911's Call centre.

It is an emergency line where a call taker will request the following information:

Your telephone number (to remain in contact with you should you be cut off)

Your location (street name and nearest cross road)

The details of what has happened, how many people are injured, whether there is a fire, etc.

This will allow the dispatcher to send

the correct personnel from the closest area. In addition the call takers are able to give you telephonic advice as to what to do to help the injure on the accident scene.

Assisting the Injured

If you have a First Aid kit, locate and put on the rubber gloves that are inside.

Calm and reassure the people that have been involved in the accident. Make them aware you have called the emergency services and that help is on the way. This may be the only thing and the most important thing you can do to help someone involved in an accident.

The most important principles when helping an accident victim are the following:

Safety – Do not attempt heroics which may potentially jeopardise your own safety. Your safety comes first, before that of the injured. You are of no use to anyone if you become injured while attempting to help others.

If there is any fire/ flames and you have a fire extinguisher, use it and direct the foam/ water at the base of the flames.

Do NOT move the patient or attempt to remove them from the vehicle UNLESS there is an immediate threat to life (e.g. the car is on fire and you are unable to extinguish it). There may be an underlying injury to the neck or spine and unnecessary movement could make this worse.

If the person is unconscious, open their mouth and check there is nothing inside causing obstruction.

Check if the person is breathing.

If the patient is breathing leave them in the position you find them and monitor them regularly.

If the patient is NOT breathing and you have been trained to do so, you may begin CPR and rescue breathing as necessary.

If a person is bleeding heavily, take any available material e.g. a t-shirt/ gauze from the first aid kit/ a towel/ a blanket/ etc, and place it over the open bleeding wound. Then press tightly applying direct pressure to the wound. Maintain that pressure until the emergency services arrive. Do not stop pressing to check if there is continued bleeding or to look at the wound. This procedure may save a persons life.

ACCIDENTS AND SPEED

Speeding can be defined as exceeding the posted speed limit and driving too fast for conditions. Unfortunately many people do not view obeying speed limits as an important way to avoid crashes. Speeding is regarded as a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes.

The important factors to consider are the following:

- * Speed reduces the amount of available time needed to avoid a crash / to stop the vehicle
- * Speed extends the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a dangerous situation
- * Speed reduces the ability of the driver to steer safely around curves or objects on the road
- * Speed increases the likelihood of crashing
- * Speed increases the severity of a crash once it occurs

The Arrive Alive Campaign is aware that the public needs to be made more aware of the dangers of speeding. If speeding is to be

combated more effectively, we would have to devote increased resources to better enforcement, including more law officers to patrol the roads and we must support technological advances such as video cameras ["photo radar"] to target aggressive speeding drivers. We would also have to consider the effective development of speed calming devices in road engineering especially in specific rural areas.

Alcohol and speeding are a deadly combination. Research in the USA has indicated that a much higher percentage of intoxicated drivers who were involved in fatal crashes, were speeding than sober drivers involved in fatal crashes. Young male drivers are most likely to be involved in fatal accidents where speeding and alcohol are prevalent.

Many speed related crash reduction efforts try to utilize the 5E's strategy namely Education, Enforcement, Empowerment, Engineering and Evaluation. It is however the drivers responsibility to obey the traffic laws and to be sure that all passengers are safely seated and belted.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

It is important that motorists are able to adapt their driving when the driving conditions deteriorate as a result of bad weather.

It is also important that your car is roadworthy and that the windscreen enables clear vision and the windscreen wipers are fully functional.

Adverse weather conditions will require certain advanced driving skills.

Before going on a long journey, take some time off and visit the website <http://www.weathersa.co.za> so as to establish what weather conditions might be expected on your route.

In doing so you might be better prepared mentally for nasty little surprises on the weather front!

A few hints:

- * Drive a roadworthy vehicle
- * Check the windscreen, wipers and water in the windscreen wiper bottle.
- * Be prepared for bad weather.
- * Be patient! Rather slow down!
- * If you can't see - Don't drive
- * Use your headlights and beware of other drivers



KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport

Zero Tolerance Manifesto

Passengers and Pedestrians

You are assisting the driver to commit a crime if you:

- * board an overloaded vehicle
- * board a vehicle driven by a drunk driver
- * board a car driven by an unlicensed person
- * are not wearing a safety belt in a moving vehicle
- * do not look right, left and right again when crossing the road

You are failing in your duty to reduce deaths on roads if you fail to report road law offenders.

Driver

You are committing a crime if you:

- * drive an overloaded vehicle
- * drive a vehicle whilst drunk
- * drive a speed higher than the designated speed limit
- * drive without a valid drivers license

- * drive an unroadworthy vehicle
- * do not wear a seat belt whilst driving
- * use a cell phone without a valid drive-and-talk device
- * attempt to bribe a road traffic officer
- * attempt to bribe an officer testing and issuing road worthy certificates

It is every road user's duty to report road safety offences to the Mpimpa Hotline on 086 221 10 10

Passenger Rights Charter Passengers have a right to transport.

We support your right to:

- * Board an overloaded taxi or bus
- * Decline to board an un-roadworthy taxi or bus
- * Sit in your own seat and to wear a seat belt
- * Be driven by a licensed driver
- * Be driven by a sober driver
- * Refuse to ride in a speeding taxi or bus
- * Report taxi or bus driver abuses to the Mpimpa Hotline



Call **MPIMPA** Hotline
086 221 1010
YOUR VOICE CAN SAVE LIVES



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YOUR VOICE CAN SAVE LIVES



Easter Fatalities for 2004 / 2005

In 2004 we endured 41 fatalities during the Easter Vacation and 38 in 2005. In KwaZulu Natal we value lives and urge you to be cautious and help reduce the number of fatalities.

Accidents don't just happen, there are contributory factors especially a total disregard for the lives of others.

Jan 06 - Seven members of the Shabangu family were killed in a taxi crash in Steildrift outside Newcastle.

Feb 06 - 8 people lost their lives in a horror crash when a truck lost control in Durban's Warwick Triangle and knocked a number of vehicles including two taxis and a pedestrian 58 people were injured.

Feb 06- 13 people lost their lives and many others were injured in a horror bus crash at Lufafa, outside Ixopo.

People are part of families not just statistics and we have to respect the lives of others. These are not acts of culpable homicide but murder and the perpetrators should be charged accordingly. There will be Zero Tolerance in KwaZulu Natal.

Comparative Holiday Fatalities

2000	65
2001	101
2002	62
2003	56
2004	41
2005	38

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

MPIMPA HOTLINE 0862 221 1010
S.A.P.S. 10111

AMBULANCE SERVICE 10177
NETCARE 082 911

COMPETITION COMPETITION COMPETITION

WIN A WEEKEND FOR TWO AT THE ROYAL HOTEL IN DURBAN

Question: What is the name of our 24 hour call centre where you can report any Traffic offence?

SMS your answer to 35117



**KwaZulu-Natal
Department of Transport**

Competition closes 02 May 2006. Winners will be notified by SMS.

OPERATION EMISA