



transport

Department:
Transport
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



Transport Month Supplement

Remembering road victims heals the wounds of the bereaved



The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu and Head of Department Chris Hlabisa at the wreckage of the accident that killed 18 people on the spot.

Health, the Department of Social Development, Amakhosi, different stake-holders and interfaith structures, we want to ensure that all the affected families receive assistance like medical attention, grants as well as the Road Accident Fund grant, when necessary,” said Mchunu. Upon hearing numerous complaints of the victims who did not receive their RAF grants, Mchunu announced that the newly-appointed team dealing with RAF claims will look into all pending cases in order to see if justice was done when dealing with them or not.

He also said that in order to reduce the high rate of carnage on the road, his Department came up with attempts such as introducing road safety as a syllabus in schools by ensuring that a Grade 12 learner leaves the school after Matric with a Matric certificate as well as a driver’s license. The Department of Transport also has a programme that targets road offenders. This programme will complement the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offence (ARRTO) punitive measure against road flogs, coupled with the Name and Shame initiative which will publish the names of the offenders for society to see.

A NUMBER of people and government heads gathered at uMsinga Tribal Court to remember the people that were killed on the road in the area.

uMsinga has had a high rate of road accidents that killed and maimed many people, including the incident that saw a truck wiping out social grants beneficiaries whilst in a queue at a local pay-point. In order to help the long and painful process of healing the wounds of the bereaved families that lose breadwinners and loved ones in such unpredictable and shocking incidents, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu, together with the MEC for Social Development Meshack Radebe,

launched a new initiative known as the Healing of the Wounds.

The initiative is expected to cover the whole province in the near future. Radebe said the Department of Social Development welcomed the opportunity to partner with the Transport Department on the Healing of the Wounds programme.

The programme seeks to take care of the psychological well-being of the bereaved families and also serve as a road safety awareness campaign. MEC Mchunu said the Healing of the Wounds programme will be rolled-out across the Province of KwaZulu-Natal in those areas that were mostly affected by road accidents. MEC Mchunu said statistics pointed out that on average about 40 people are killed on the roads in this country on a

daily basis, and that not less than 140 road users get injured as a direct result of road accidents, costing the tax payer some R56 billion a year in health care, lost property, let alone skills drainage and the welfare of bereaved families.

Mchunu urged people to take the initiative in changing their conduct and making their communities and families a healthy environment as most causes of high death rates such as road accidents, crime, political intolerance, hijacking, HIV and AIDS, are found in KwaZulu-Natal. Mchunu said, “We are here today to try and put a stop to all the road accidents through awareness work. These accidents leave behind scars that can never be healed no matter how long the time the accidents took

place. He added, “By working together with the Department of



The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu lights a candle to remember the victims that lost their lives in road related accidents. This is the first of many events still to take place through out the province in honour of those who lost their lives.

‘prosperity through mobility’

Community Safety MEC launches Operation Hlasela at Mpfana



KZN Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize with Transport, Community Safety & Liaison MEC Willies Mchunu during the launch of Operation Hlasela at Mpfana.

THE provincial launch of Operation Hlasela/Crime Attack programme by the KZN Premier Zweli Mkhize in July this year has heralded the roll out of this Department of Community Safety & Liaison initiative in all KZN districts.

This programme is part of the KZN government tool to deal with crime prevention in our communities. The main aim of this programme is to promote crime prevention, crime combating, improving the socio-economic conditions of communities, and improvement of human solidarity among the general public.

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison

Willies Mchunu has already launched the Operation Hlasela/Crime Attack programme for the benefit of communities under the Mpfana Municipality.

Speaking during the launch at uMgungundlovu District, the MEC said, "Today is a day for us to share our ideas, engage each other and emerge with workable solutions for the benefit of all. Crime is receiving high priority along with other critical developmental imperatives such as health, education, rural development and the creation of decent work."

He said the battle against crime needed strong participation by government structures at all level, community leaders from different structures and members

of the community all need to take a stand in fighting crime in our communities.

Mchunu said, "We need to deal with the community first, address all the community of uMgungundlovu, all the stakeholders to work together in fighting crime. Communities must not make heroes of criminals in our communities."

The MEC thanked the police for the job well done as members of the community gave information to the police and the police dealt with the criminals amid the campaign of "No bail" to the criminals.

The key objectives of the initiative include promoting and initiating crime prevention, peace and stability in the area, preventing and detecting crime as well as addressing crime that has arisen, coupled with promoting intra- and inter-governmental relations in the fight against crime in the interest of sustainable community development.

The government and stakeholders from different structures made contributions on how they could work together in fighting crime. Mchunu said municipalities needed to have programmes, budgets, and structures of fighting crime in their municipal plan. "If they do not have them within their plan, what could be the reason, and if they need capacity from government, what would it be?" He asked.

MEC consoles families who lost six loved ones in Ntshongweni massacre



ABOVE: MEC Willies Mchunu with the bereaved family members who lost six loved ones, including two children, in a cold-blooded murder that was carried out by gunmen in the night. The SAPF are making arrests and one of the suspects was shot dead. The government covered all funeral expenses, including coffins and food. The traumatised relatives will get free counselling.

Driver of the Year contest reinforcing safe driving skills on our roads

also have the ideal opportunity to compare not only the abilities of their own drivers within the company, but also with those from other companies in the industry.

The number of participants in the Provincial Driver of the year Competition totalled fifty, twenty one of which will proceed to the next step of the competition at national level.

Drivers were evaluated using theory test, pre-trip test, track test and road test. The Driver of the Year Competition progresses according to various stages, including eliminations at regional and national levels which culminate to an international competition.

The event was sponsored by 23 different companies who were all awarded with certificates of appreciation.

The top two winners from

each category of the competition are selected to proceed to the National driver of the year Competition.

Among the participants in the bus category were six female drivers, two of which scored first and second place.

Mandla Ngcobo of Clover's Durban Regional Branch scooped the Provincial Driver of the Year trophy, leading with 1, 536 points.

It is envisaged that all participating drivers in the Driver of The Year Competition will have safer and improved driving skills and become road safety ambassadors preaching the gospel of road safety.

Commenting on the road safety event, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu said, "I am deeply saddened by the unnecessary loss



MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu and Road Safety Manager Thoko Mabaso with the participants of the annual driver of the year competition

of lives on our South African roads. We hope that events such as this will educate our fellow road users and equip heavy vehicle drivers with the finest skills so that they can excel in their driving and eventually represent our country in the International Driver of the Year Competitions and paint us in a positive light."

Mchunu thanked all participants for taking a step forward in an effort to combat road carnage by being part of the worthy cause.



The KZN Department of Transport hosted its 2010 Provincial Driver of the Year Competition recently.

This competition was aimed at identifying the best long distance truck and bus drivers within the KZN province, according to the K53 driving method.

The long-term aim of the competition is to improve driver education in South Africa,

and consequently improve the standard of driving heavy vehicles and ultimately reducing road crashes.

This event does not only enhance road safety education, but it also encourages the business sector to invest in advanced driver training of their heavy motor vehicles because skilled drivers make a positive contribution to saving lives.

Participants in this competition

Rail transport role in the spotlight on Transport Month



National Minister for Transport Sibusiso Ndebele with KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willie Mchunu at the official launch of Transport Month in KwaMashu, Bridge City

The launch of Transport Month this year which was staged in eThekweni echoed the prestigious World Cup Soccer Tournament standards with the national Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele launching a three kilometers long underground rail transport for commuters.

This experimental short track is part of the government's Ink or Inanda, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu upgrade push.

A more formidable project that will see two provinces linking by rail transport, like Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, is on the cards.

National Transport Month was launched at the new shopping complex in KwaMashu

to celebrate the uplift of the previously disadvantaged communities in an effort to minimize the influx of people who flock the city.

In order to assist the swift transportation of commuters who will utilize the complex, a railway station was built underground to help commuters travel from one point to another with ease.

This is a first of its kind in the entire continent of Africa. The total amount of revenue that will be pumped into this project is R128 million. An estimated 25 000 jobs will be created in the completion of the rail way.

Ndebele said, "This is a first of its kind in the country and the continent as a whole. We

are happy to be part of such a magnitude of an investment. We thank the investors."

In launching the provincial Transport Month activity programme, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willie Mchunu reiterated the importance of being vigilant on the roads and not drinking and driving in a function that was staged in Durban's Warwick Road.

"A lot has been said to warn people about the dangers of reckless driving yet people still persist and endanger others on the roads. I appeal to you drivers to please go an extra mile to help us save lives on the roads. Be more vigilant," he said.

Taxi drivers who obey the rules of the road honored in prestigious ceremony

A driving contest aimed at honoring those drivers who obey the rules of the road and know what it means to do right, has been hailed as a success.

The competition also serves as a reminder to everyone that on a daily basis people are becoming victims of road accidents and to promote road safety in order to fight carnages on our roads.

The KZN Department of Transport together with BrandHouse, Toyota, the Road Traffic Management Cooperation (RTMC), the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), as well as the National Taxi Alliance, hosted the Number One Taxi Driver Competition at the Provincial Prize Giving Ceremony held in eThekweni's Hilton Hotel recently.

Addressing the function, KZN Transport Head Chris Hlabisa said, "We are tired of all these deaths, especially because it's our youth that are losing their lives, even the taxi drivers belong to that age-group."

He urged everyone to empower the taxi drivers with proper driving skills for the purpose of improving them. Hlabisa said that a significant percentage of people which is more than 64% or 48 million depend on taxis, excluding buses and trains. He said there seemed to be no

respect of the lives of our people by taxi drivers, hence the need for such educational contests.

He said that the Transport Academy was there to train black-public transport owners how to treat their commuters in an acceptable and good manner. There is a national programme in place to ensure that this training works in all provinces.

Hlabisa said, "There is a stigma associated with people who work in this industry because of killings, disrespect and vulgar language. Let's have a coordinated approach on this issue."

The RTMC has been urged to come up with an approach that is well coordinated. Hlabisa called on everyone to be transformed in the taxi industry.

He also urged everyone who attended the event to become ambassadors of road safety. "Let's Do Right. Deaths on our roads contribute to the poverty in our country. They leave people poor," he said.

The following drivers received handsome money prizes: Siyabonga Shezi was placed third, and received R2 500.00, Siphesihle Mangwe who came second, received R5 000.00c, and Siphwe Makhubu became first winner, scooping R7 500.00c. The winning Taxi Association was the Osizweni Taxi Association.



HOD Hlabisa addresses transportation exhibition gathering

"BE relevant!"

This was the ringing message of the KZN Transport Department Head Chris Hlabisa when he addressed the Business

and Skills Forum in Harbor, Land, Air and Rail Transportation.

This forum was attended by youths from various provincial districts in an effort to gain more insight on the industry.

The HOD said it was important

for young people to be part of a multi-faceted transportation industry and outlined available opportunities within the sector.

Hlabisa said, "We need to change our mind set as people from the previously disadvantaged

community and as the youth, to think of careers that are within the Transportation family, be it land, rail or air transport. There are many opportunities that await us there. So we need to take advantage."

The HOD urged the youth to aim higher than usual when choosing their careers.

He said, "The youth should not aim low when choosing a career. For example, young girls want to be air hostesses as opposed to wanting to fly the aircraft. Dressing smartly on a plane and asking people if they prefer chicken or beef is nice and not all airlines use the services of the air

hostesses. But an aircraft will not depart unless it is driven by a pilot. There is an opening to penetrate the highly specialized fields."

It is estimated that 75 percent of imports and exports move through this province in the Durban and in Richards Bay Port. This contributes to 11% of the Growth Domestic Produce in the country.

Hlabisa said, "The amount of goods transported from Durban and Richards Bay and the Southern Africa region on the N2 and N3 is estimated at 23 million tons per year. The N3 between Johannesburg and Durban is the busiest in Africa."

Road Interchange enabling Wembezi community easy access to N3



National Minister of Transport Sibusiso Ndebele, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu and dignitaries at the official opening of the Wembezi Interchange in Estcourt

THE community of Wembezi now have easier access to N3 following the completion of a road interchange that serves as a shortcut to the town of Estcourt.

This is as a result of the intervention of the South African National Department of Transport and its provincial counterpart which are in the business of improving the quality of life of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

As part of the 2010 October Transport Month campaign, the National Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu, Transport

Department Head Chris Hlabisa and other dignitaries led the official opening of the Wembezi Interchange recently.

Ndebele said this interchange was requested by the people of this area who asked the Department to consider the construction of an interchange on the N3 where the provincial road MR29 crosses it north of the Wagondrift Dam.

This was to give access to the people residing along MR29 at Wembwezi, Ntabamhlophe, white Mountain and further Westwards towards the Drunkensberg foothills. The cost of this project to date is over R33 260 000.

This interchange is expected to

reduce transgression, accidents and unnecessary deaths in this area. It will also create an easy access to schools, hospitals, clinics, and to town.

MEC Mchunu requested the drivers to respect the laws of the roads, and to exercise tolerance on the road, citing drinking alcoholic beverages and driving as a hindrance to safety as excessive alcohol concentration in the human body impairs the driver's capacity to control the vehicle.

He urged drivers to respect the speed limits on the roads because it kills. He appealed to drivers to refrain from using cellular phones whilst driving.



Msinga rejoices as KZN Transport Department officially opens KwaKopi and Mvundlwini roads



MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu and Head of Department Chris Hlabisa at the official opening of KwaKopi road in uMsinga

AS per the KZN Department of Transport's mandate to ensure that rural communities have a safe, reliable, affordable and efficient transport system to gain access to basic facilities and services, roads KwaKopi and Mvundlwini were officially opened in uMsinga recently.

KwaKopi and Mvundlwini roads have been newly-constructed and will serve as a link between the communities of Machunwini and emaBomvini. These roads will shorten the distance previously travelled by commuters to Grey town, Tugela Ferry and Keates Drift. The distance travelled from KwaKopi to Nhlesi has been shortened by 15 kilometres.

This saves money for commuters and reduces the time they spend on the road thus making them less vulnerable to accidents.

The total length of KwaKopi road stretches to 15 kilometres at a budget allocation of R39.9 million, while Mvundlwini road is at 18 kilometres which has been surfaced at the total cost of R18.5 million.

uMsinga is one of the areas

that suffered most from poverty and underdevelopment, due to oppression and apartheid policies. That is why the KZN Transport Department has allocated an amount of R170 million of its budget to enhance infrastructure development in the uMsinga area.

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu said, "As per my predecessor's promise of immense contribution towards poverty alleviation through infrastructure and development to rural communities, it is therefore my responsibility to fulfil that promise despite hindrances such as cost-cutting measures caused by over-expenditure that face our government departments".

"Road safety is every road user's responsibility. For as long as we persist with arrogance and negligence whilst driving and walking on our roads, we are most vulnerable to carnage and more blood-shed on our roads. The Department can only do so much to educate and enforce road regulations; the rest is in the hands of the driver. Let us unite as fellow South Africans, be ambassadors of road safety and put an end to this horrific war of road carnages",

Indumo community applaud government road upgrade



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu and Head Of Department Chris Hlabisa sod turn the gravel road P435 in Indumo near Jozini.

Impendle community marvel at government road & bridge upgrade



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu at the official opening of road P127 at Impendle

Ulundi residents witness infrastructure development improving their lives



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison Willies Mchunu and Head of Department Chris Hlabisa at the official opening of a Public Transport Facility in Ulundi