

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON,

MR. B.H. CELE

Obtaining your learner's or driver's licence in KwaZulu-Natal will never be the same again.

On 13 December 2004 we launched our new slogan, "From Zero Tolerance to 100% Compliance". The intention of the new slogan is to ensure that when laws are not obeyed, our law enforcement agencies act decisively. It is a slogan that says, as government we have the capacity to enforce our laws.

For more than a decade we have championed the view that most road accidents are due to human error and could have been avoided. It is thus befitting that government ensures that all road users fully comply with the law as they use our roads. Our roads cannot be reduced to playing fields for non-complying individuals.

On that score, attacking inefficiency, fraud and corruption in our driver licensing and vehicle registration and testing systems forms an integral part of our mandate. My Department has therefore spent and is continuing to spend millions of rands on the upgrading of our Driving Licence Test Centres in the province.

Numerous prosecutions with regard to driver and learner licence fraud are currently taking place across our province. We are also making use of specialized enforcement agencies such as the Special Investigative Unit to carry out ad hoc inspection blitzes and investigations.

On 10 October we launched our first Mobile Learner's Licence Testing Facility, which is indeed yet another first for South Africa and perhaps one of few such facilities in the world. The launch of this mobile learner's licence facility brings a service that has never been provided to the historically disadvantaged citizens of our province, the majority of who reside in the rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal. Had it not been for a facility such as this, many of these people would normally have to travel a round trip of more than 400 kilometres in order to write a learner's licence test.

Today they have the opportunity of sitting for a learner's licence examination in a state-of-the-art mobile facility where quality examinations can be conducted with professionalism and fairness guaranteed. This mobile learner's licence testing facility is yet another practical example of our

government's commitment to ensure that we take service delivery to the people. All these new systems are aimed at rooting out fraud and corruption which has cost the Department of Transport millions of rand over several years.

The Rosburgh Driver Certification Centre, which is the second largest in South Africa, has historically been a problem. However, the new upgraded Rosburgh Driver Certification Centre will now ensure that we look forward rather than back. New cutting-edge technology has been implemented to streamline driver and learner licence testing. These upgraded facilities which have been introduced at the Rosburgh Driver Certification Centre will also be rolled out to other testing centres in the province. Therefore, the upgrading of the Rosburgh Driver Certification Centre is a significant bold step towards a systematic approach to driver fitness in KwaZulu-Natal.

Dr Martin Luther King Jnr. once said: "We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny, and whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly".

With this in mind, saving lives on our roads is unarguably beyond the capacity of one stakeholder. The new thinking in road safety suggests that government involvement in promoting road safety should go beyond traffic regulation and enforcement and adopt a people-centred approach that deals with accident prevention. It is thus becoming increasingly clear that traffic management and road safety in South Africa must adopt new strategies that resonate with people-centred development to meet the challenges of our growing and changing society. This will require a fundamental shift from awareness campaigns towards a growing emphasis on community participation in planning, facilitating and implementing road safety.

Road Safety is not only government's responsibility. Road Safety is everybody's responsibility. Therefore, I would like to call upon the private sector, the driving school industry, the education fraternity, religious bodies, traditional authorities, the media and all other relevant stakeholders to join us in our fight against road carnage.

Let us all commit to saying, "*NO TO FAKE LICENCES*" in KwaZulu-Natal.

Kuphelile – Finito.

ALUFAKWA!