



**SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. B.H. CELE AT THE LAUNCH OF THE EASTER HOLIDAY ROAD SAFETY PLAN AT CURRIES FOUNTAIN ON TUESDAY, 4 APRIL 2006.**

**All Protocol Observed.**

- One of the key priorities of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is safety on the province's roads.
- The Easter holiday is one period when we intensify our road safety initiatives as a result of increased traffic volumes.
- Road crashes of appalling horror occur almost every day. We all know about it and we all also know that we need a greater sense of responsibility as NOBODY benefits from this situation.
- But we also know that the responsibility for reducing the carnage on our roads rests with the road users themselves. This is REAL crime, and communities

and individuals must take responsibility for their behaviour and that of their families and friends to bring down the number of deaths on the road.

- Hence today's "March for Safety".
- During Easter, thousands of people are expected to visit our province and traffic volumes will increase along all national and major provincial routes.
- All law enforcement agencies will be working in a coordinated manner to ensure that our "100 % compliance" policy is strictly enforced.
- You can be rest assured that no mercy will be shown to any traffic offender. If you do not comply with the law, you will face the full might of the law.
- The implementation of our Easter road safety plan commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> March and will end on 1<sup>st</sup> May. During this period vacation leave for all our law enforcement officers has been curtailed, to ensure maximum visibility.
- The targeted priority offences include:
  - ❖ speeding,
  - ❖ seatbelts,
  - ❖ overloading (goods and passengers, including bakkies and buses),
  - ❖ pedestrians,
  - ❖ drunk driving,
  - ❖ un-roadworthy vehicles,
  - ❖ public transport vehicles and permits,
  - ❖ unsafe overtaking and signals,
  - ❖ driving licences, and
  - ❖ Professional Driving Permits (PrDP's).

- In summary, our Easter road safety plan comprises of the following key elements:
  - ❖ Operation Emisa - the national department of transport has dubbed the 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 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 I want to urge you all to report any traffic offence so that action can be taken against those who are guilty.
- In closing, I would like to urge all road users to respect one another; pedestrians must give the necessary respect to motorists, and vice-versa.
- Together, we must continue to strive to increase respect for human life, and treat road safety with the seriousness it deserves.

**I thank you.**