



SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. B.H. CELE AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 2006.

All protocol observed.

- Today we are reminded about the death of nine people who were killed at about 10h15 last Saturday, 31 December 2005 (New Year's Eve) in a road crash on the R102 intersection between Old Main Road and Saunders Road at Isipingo.
- A Toyota Camry, minibus taxi and bus were involved. According to eyewitnesses, the driver of the Toyota Camry entered the road unsafely at the intersection. The driver of the taxi then swerved to avoid the Camry and collided head-on into a bus which was travelling from Isipingo.
- Nine people from the taxi, including the driver were killed whilst several others sustained injuries and were admitted to nearby hospitals in and around Durban.

- It has been reported that the minibus taxi was carrying 24 passengers on board which is ridiculous and unreasonable.
- On the day of the crash I personally visited the scene, as well as the survivors at the Mahatma Gandhi, King Edward and Addington Hospitals.
- I am grief-stricken each time I have to witness the pain of family members at gatherings such as these, and no amount of words are sufficient enough to comfort the families during these difficult moments.
- Nevertheless, I would like to express my sincere condolences to all the bereaved families during this time of extreme grief.
- The names of the deceased are as follows:
 - Jabu Dlamini (56 years);
 - Thembisile Ngcobo (43 years);
 - Buyelwa Kathi (25 years);
 - Lindokuhle Masango (78 years);
 - Angelina Vilakazi (28 years);
 - Sylvester Hlongwa;
 - Zanele Ngubane (59 years);
 - Dumisane Mzizi (Driver – 27 years); and
 - Thabisile Khumalo (31 years).

“May their souls rest in peace?”

- At present, nine counts of culpable homicide are being investigated by the SAPS and investigations into this crash are continuing.
- The safety of our people is one of the key priorities of our government.
- I therefore want to repeat myself to all drivers to comply with all road rules or face the full might of the law.

- As political head of this department, I will continue to play the role that I am mandated to play, and champion “100% compliance” 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year in order to ensure that we have safer roads in our province.
- I will also continue to sustain the ideals of “Defending the Weak”, which include defending that child, woman or man killed on the road because the driver was drunk, moving at a high speed or simply did not obey the rules of the road.
- One of the key mandated goals of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is to create a safe road environment through the reduction of road crashes.
- Over the years the Department has successfully pioneered the Asiphephe (Let Us Be Safe) road safety campaign. As part of this campaign, I introduced the slogans, “from Zero Tolerance to 100% Compliance”, as well as “Omela eKhaya” (Get Thirsty At Home).
- The Asiphephe campaign has reinforced the Department’s enforcement programme as well as provided road safety education in schools and communities throughout the province.
- Community Road Safety Councils have been established throughout the province to ensure that the Department addresses road safety issues identified by the respective communities themselves.
- As part of our efforts to invariably reduce the number of road crashes, last year we launched the “KEEP LEFT, PASS RIGHT” road safety campaign, and the “NO TO FAKE LICENCES” campaign.

- In conclusion, we as government will continue to do everything possible to assist the affected families in whatever way we can during these difficult moments.

THANK YOU.