



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE MEMORIAL  
SERVICE IN JOZINI THURSDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2007**

**Protocol observed**

- Gatherings of this nature are certainly among the saddest and most difficult moments for us at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.
- Our challenge now is that despite our commitment to ensuring the safety of our people, we continue to lose people on our roads. However, unlike the HIV scourge, I believe that we have the remedy, the cure and the vaccine. The question posed at all of us is whether or not do we wish to prevent this carnage from ravaging us further.
- We all know that speed, drinking and driving, fatigue, unsafe overtaking, ignoring of traffic signals and other traffic signs, general recklessness, negligent and aggressive driver behavior, unsafe crossing of roads, drinking and walking, poor vehicle maintenance, unsafe following distances are some of the main causes of accidents.

- It is on that score that our theme during this festive season says “Just Do Right”. This theme is based on our belief that in fact, most accidents are caused by human error and can be prevented.
- I am always worried by laws which seem to be too soft. I am worried about people who drink alcohol and get into their cars and kill our innocent people but get charged for culpable homicide. In Australia they say if you drink and drive you are bloody idiot.
- One of the unfortunate things about these accidents is that they people who are economically active. People who drive their cars or travel in public transport are mostly working and have dependants. Another thing is that the impact of fatalities is seen on people left behind.
- Therefore, no one in their right mind would blame the Department when we unleash our law enforcement forces in order to prevent people from dying as a result of preventable situations.
- I want to warn both drivers and owners of public transport vehicles, especially the bus and taxi industry to take responsibility for the safety of their passengers. Just one bus or taxi crash can result in many deaths and several injuries. You have been warned – we will show no mercy to any driver or owner who breaks the law.

- All personnel will be made available during this period to ensure support for intensified law enforcement initiatives. The NO LEAVE policy will apply from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007 up until the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008.
  
- The KZN Department of Transport continues to be innovative in its efforts to reduce road accidents and the number of habitual speedsters. On Tuesday we launched our new project which is related to AVERAGE SPEED ENFORCEMENT.
  
- We will now have cameras that will monitor the average speeds of all vehicles through an 8,5 kilometer before and after driving pass the device. The number plates and vehicle images of will be recorded and transferred electronically through advanced computerized technology to the relevant camera office.
  
- The number plates will also be stored in a comprehensive database and used extensively for comparisons against stolen vehicle records and outstanding fine records.
  
- We would like to express our sincere condolences to all the bereaved families during this time of extreme grief.
  
- The names of the deceased are as follows:
  - ( years);
  - ( years);
  - ( years);
  - ( years)
  - ( years);

**“May their souls rest in peace?”**

- In conclusion, we always say that as government we do everything possible to assist the families in whatever way we can during these difficult moments.
- In this regard, I am appealing to the victims and affected families not to sign any papers with strangers who promise to claim from the Road Accident Fund for them. Our Department will assist you to follow the right procedures free of charge. So, beware of these “vultures”.

**I THANK YOU.**