



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE DURING
SIYABAKHUMBULA ON SUNDAY 09 DECEMBER 2007**

Protocol observed

- Our gathering here today is a clear indication that government is working tirelessly to ensure that South Africa becomes a better place for all. We all know that in order to adequately reduce the carnage on our roads, a concerted approach by all sectors of our society is required.
- We have begun our Summer Holidays which is a period synonymous with increased activity and festivities as locals, visitors and tourists traverse the length and breadth of our province. It is also a period with unacceptably high levels of deviant driver behaviour which contributes to the high levels of road carnage.

- During this period, large crowds are expected to support the various beach festivals, church gatherings and other planned activities throughout the province. These events provide opportunities for antisocial behaviour and a potential for creating disaster.
- It is against this background that we will continue to reinforce our “100 % compliance” policy which includes programmes that inform and educate the community at large about correct road safety behaviour. We will continue to improve the road environment through appropriate and innovative engineering measures. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENFORCE THE LAW.
- 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 our 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 a bloody idiot.

- One unfortunate thing about these accidents is that they kill 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 loved ones 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 1st December 2007 up until the 14th 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 kilometer before and after you have passed the device. The number plates and vehicle images of will be recorded and transferred electronically through advanced computerised 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.
- In conclusion, I would like to urge all religious communities to continue to play a more active role in spreading the gospel of safety by ensuring that our safety messages go right down to grassroots level.
- Jesus told his disciples that those who hear His words, and fail to do them, are like a house without a foundation that is destroyed when the storms come. There are thousands of road users, who have heard our road safety messages over and over again, yet they fail to practice what they hear.
- Finally, continue to work and pray with unity of purpose and without ceasing for a safer South Africa, where the number of road accidents and incidents of crime will be significantly reduced.

I thank you