



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE
SIYABAKHUMBULA IN PORT SHEPSTONE ON THE 14th OF OCTOBER 2007**

Protocol observed

- Since 2005, the month of October is declared as the National Transport Month. On the 2nd of October, we launched our provincial plan for the month and since then we have been moving up and down ensuring that our people are sensitized to road safety issues among other things.
- I am therefore delighted to see so many of us gathered here today together with religious leaders and their congregations from different religious faiths, who have come together to pray with officials from the Department of Transport and the Hibicus Coast Municipality, for divine intervention in our efforts to reduce deaths on our roads.

- We all know that few months ago, we came to this area three times for memorial services for people who died on our roads. I am talking about 29 people who died in a space of just three weeks. I know that this may be statistics to others but statistics don't die, people die on the roads.
- When we met with the Mayor of Hibiscus Coast Nolwazi Shusha during those memorial services, we thought that it would be necessary to call this service to remember those who passed away, but particularly, to pray together for God's intervention.
- There is greater spiritual power when believers pray together with unity of purpose. In Mathew 18 of the Bible, Jesus taught not only the power of prayer, but also the power of agreement in prayer.
- He said that when multiple believers agree in prayer, His Father would give them anything for which they ask. Because in united prayer, said Jesus - even in small groups of two or three - He Himself would be uniquely manifest.
- We at the KZN Department of Transport are firmly of the belief that religious communities must play a more active role in "spreading the gospel of road safety". It is on that score that we have interfaith programme where we encourage the entire religious community of KwaZulu-Natal to participate actively in our struggle against road crashes.

- This is a clear indication that government is working tirelessly to ensure that South Africa becomes a better place for all. However, in order to adequately reduce the carnage, a concerted approach by all sectors of our society is urgently required.
- As we head towards the forthcoming December Holidays, 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 practise what they hear.
- As part our Transport Month, yesterday we launched our provincial structure for public transport passengers, the KwaZulu-Natal Public Transport Passenger Association (KZN-PTPA). We have already established local associations all over the province.
- Here, we are saying today passengers speak out. We are saying passengers participate in decisions relating to your transportation. We are saying now passengers you have the power in your hands through these structures. You can now speak with one voice in ensuring that the public transport system in KwaZulu-Natal does not take you for granted.

- Gone are the days when road safety was perceived as only government's responsibility. The time has come for that perception to be urgently corrected as safety should be close to all our hearts. After all, it concerns the protection of our most precious gift - our very life.
- In closing, I would like to recognise religious denominations and organisations for making a meaningful impact in shaping societal behaviour and attitudes. Indeed, we appreciate your efforts.
- 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