

- As a country we seem to think less of the dangers that can afflict us on the road. Unlike most people who practice safe sex, most still do not see misbehaviour on the roads as a virus that will ultimately kill them.
- Unfortunately, we learn bad driving habits from our parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and role models. We even have people who glorify these bad driving behaviours. How often do we hear people bragging about how fast they had driven between Johannesburg and Durban?
- How often do we see people quickly putting on safety belts as they approach a road block or see a traffic police officer ahead? How often do we witness a driver breaking a traffic law but remain silent about it?
- Speed, drinking and driving, fatigue, unsafe overtaking, ignoring of traffic signals and other traffic signs, general reckless, negligent and aggressive driver behaviour, unsafe crossing of roads, drinking and walking, poor vehicle maintenance; unsafe following distances are some of the main causes of accidents.
- Reports speculate that the driver lost control of the bakkie after the tier burst and collided with the taxi leaving 10 people dead. Off course, we can have reports on what may actually have contributed to this terrible event. Nonetheless, the writing is on the wall.

- We would therefore like to pass condolences to the families of the following:
 1. Mbuyiseli Dlamini (51)
 2. Nonhle Mvumbi (23)
 3. Alina Kwayikwayi (51)
 4. Nkanyiso Kwayikwayi (28)
 5. Nomonde Vuku (30)
 6. Nomarashiya Kheswa (65)
 7. Bawinile Khawula (37)
 8. Harriet Thabethe (64)
 9. Lidia Mdingi
 10. Beatrice Bhadama (57)

- I think it is time for all of us who have been driving for such a long time to re-evaluate and check our driving habits. Do we, for instance, indicate when we change lanes? Do we wear seatbelts regularly? Do we check our vehicles every time we set off on a journey? Do we obey the basic rules of the road?

- We CAN make a difference on our roads, if we all pull together and all take responsibility for our actions. As drivers we need to be responsible especially when in charge of other human lives. As passengers we need to be very aware of safe and legal travel, and not make ourselves vulnerable to abuse.

- We have our **Mpimpa Hotline** for you to phone when you see something wrong happening to help prevent catastrophes such as these from happening again. **Please call 086 221 1010 – your voice can save lives!**
- Just as we said never again to apartheid, let us come together again in this dark hour and put an end to butchery on our roads.
- **Never, never and never again!**

I thank you.