



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE
MEMORIAL SERVICE IN PORT SHEPSTONE ON THURSDAY 26
JULY 2007**

Protocol observed

- Last week we were gathered here at Hibiscus Coast for a memorial service of nine people, who were killed in a road crash involving a fire fighting vehicle and a bus.
- It is again with profound sadness that we are gathered here today to mourn the passing away of eight, who died last Wednesday as a result of a bus accident on the R206 near Port Shepstone.
- According to reports, it is alleged that the KZT Shepstone bus overturned when the driver lost control due to the vehicle's mechanical fault. Seven people were killed on the spot and one other died later in hospital.

- The driver of the bus, Mr Richman Mazw'enkosi Sikobi, was arrested and charged with culpable homicide. He appeared in court on Friday and was released on bail of R10 000. The SAPS investigating officer requested more time for investigation, so he is due to appear again on the 20th of September 2007.
- The names of the deceased are as follows:

Name & Surname	Gender	Age
Gloria Thusi	Female	31
Dorris Jabulile Shabane	Female	31
Nontobeko Langazane	Female	25
Boy Langazane	Male	40
Dolly Judith Ncane	Female	49
Mkhonzeni Dorra Mqadi	Female	49
Philile Irena Maphumulo	Female	45
Prisilla Lindiwe Ndovela	Female	40

- **“May their souls rest in peace”**
- 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.
- I would like to reiterate that the safety of passengers also rests in the hands of drivers, as well as public transport operators.
- The owners of public transport vehicles such as taxis and buses also have a role to play in ensuring that their drivers are qualified and capable of driving these vehicles.

- The number of accidents involving public transport, particularly buses in KwaZulu-Natal has been alarming and disturbing in past weeks. We will intensify our law enforcement operations, particularly operation Thath'iskorokoro, to target buses so as to ensure that our commuters are not victims of road crashes as a result of human error and unroadworthy vehicles.
- 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 Road Accident Fund for them. Our Department will assist you to follow the right procedures free of charge. So, beware of these "vultures".

THANK YOU.