



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE TWELVE
APOSTLE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Protocol observed

- I am delighted to see so many of us gathered here today. I am sure we all came here, mainly to pray for divine intervention in our efforts to deal with challenges in this world.
- Over the past few months until last Thursday, I have been meeting religious people in various places of this province, where we held memorial services for people who died on our roads. That is why in gatherings like this, we should also pray for divine intervention in our efforts to reduce road accidents .
- 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.
- As we have gathered here today for similar reasons, among other things, we should perhaps consider more specifically problems pertaining to safety on the roads and in our society at large.
- 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". To this end, 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 many of you are aware, we in KwaZulu-Natal have moved from, "ZERO TOLERANCE TO 100% COMPLIANCE", for all road traffic laws. Should there be anything less than 100% compliance, you can be rest assured that you will be caught and punished.
- 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 such as the Twelve Apostle Church in Christ 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