



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL HEAD OF DEPARTMENT  
TRANSPORT MR CHRIS HLABISA AT THE MASS FUNERAL IN VRYHEID  
ON SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2008**

**Protocol observed**

- Gatherings of this nature are certainly among the saddest and most difficult moments for us at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.
- Our challenge now is that despite our commitment to ensuring the safety of our people, we continue to lose people on our roads. However, unlike the HIV scourge, I believe that we have the remedy, the cure and the vaccine. The question posed at all of us is whether or not do we wish to prevent this carnage from ravaging us further.
- 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.
  
- 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 people left behind.
  
- But, I want to assure you that things will change this year as we celebrate 10 years of **Asiphephe** which was launched in 1998. We will be intensifying our road safety campaigns throughout the year and by that, we mean business. We will introduce a licence demerit system that will deduct points each time a motorist breaks the law.
  
- We would like to express our sincere condolences to all the bereaved families during this time of extreme grief. The names of the deceased are as follows:
  - Nomfundo Zulu (10 years)
  - Mbekiseni Zulu (31 years)
  - Gugu Ngema (27 years)
  - Phumlani Vilakazi (37 years)
  - Senzo Mtshali (25 years)

**“May their souls rest in peace?”**

- 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.
- 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 Let us all obey the rules of the road and JUST DO RIGHT!

**I THANK YOU.**