



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE MEMORIAL
SERVICE AT INGWAVUMA ON THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 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.
- On Sunday we attended a funeral service at Mariannhill for six of eleven people who died on the road between Ulundi and Melmoth, when a bakkie driver did not do the right thing. That driver had been warned about his behaviour on the road but he did not want to listen. He eventually killed eleven people including himself.
- When I talk of six people, I am talking about the family members who were wiped out in an unnecessary accident. 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.

- The KZN Department of Transport has undertaken its road safety campaigns under the theme “Just Do Right”. This theme is based on our belief that in fact, most accidents are caused by human error and can be prevented.
- I am always worried by our laws which seem to be too soft. I am worried about people who drink alcohol and get into their cars and kill our innocent people but get charged for culpable homicide. In Australia they say if you drink and drive you are a bloody idiot.
- 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.
- But, I want to assure you that things will change this year. This financial year we are definitely introducing a licence demerit system and I want to warn you that we will be eating your driver’s licences alive, slowly but surely.
- 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:

- Thembeni Hlongwa (55 years)
- Ngalile Hadebe (46 years)
- Zanele Hadebe (38 years)
- Sbongiseni Hadebe (21 years)
- Bheki Gumede (27 years)
- Bonisiwe Gumede (22 years)
- Helen Nqayi (58 years)
- Dennis Mncwabe (54 years)
- Mrs Brown (50 years)
- Lungisani Mchunu (50 years)
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“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. Let us all obey the rules of the road and JUST DO RIGHT!

I THANK YOU.