



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORT MR CHRIS HLABISA AT THE FUNERAL IN NQUTHU ON
SATURDAY 09 AUGUST 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 government is working tirelessly to ensure that South Africa becomes a safe and a better place for all. But our challenge now is that despite our commitment to safety of our people, we continue to loose people on our roads.
- Research has shown that a very high percentage of accidents are preceded by a road traffic violation, which makes the improvement of road-user perceptions, attitudes and behaviour a matter of urgency.
- It is on that score that our MEC has come up with “Just Do Right” campaign. This 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.

- This country has been experiencing about 15 000 fatalities on our roads annually. The estimated cost of the impact of deaths and injuries sustained as a result of road accidents is now R43 billion.
- In spite of numerous campaigns and high profile visible policing, an alarmingly high number of drivers and pedestrians have continuously ignored their responsibility with regard to road safety. This attitude has unfairly jeopardised the safety of other road users and continue to put many lives at risk.
- 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.
- Soon we will deprive drivers of the privilege of driving on our roads if they are reckless because every bad driver is a potential killer. Soon we will have to take your license if you are a repeat offender and thereby pre-empt your committing a crime of murdering someone on the road.
- We can still 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.