



**SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. BHEKI CELE AT THE UNVEILING  
OF THE EASTER HOLIDAY ROAD SAFETY PLAN AT CATO RIDGE ON  
TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2008**

**All Protocol Observed.**

- ? For some time now, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has focused its attention on road safety 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. However, stepping up its campaign around particular times of the year when traffic volumes are at their peak is also important.
- ? The Easter holiday period is one such time when much of our attention turns towards the increased traffic volumes. Road Safety is a key priority of our government.
- ? Our country cannot afford to continue to lose many lives and experience serious injuries every day. Not only is the pain and suffering immeasurable for victims and their families, but the cost to the economy is more than R43 billion per annum.

- ? Every year, we witness tragedies of appalling horror. We all know about it. We all know that we need a greater sense of urgency as NOBODY benefits from this situation. But we also know that the onus for reducing the carnage on our roads must rest with the road users themselves.
  
- ? 315 people lost their lives during Easter 2007 in South Africa while for the province of KZN 41 people lost their lives. 9 x drivers , 11x passengers and 21x pedestrians.
  
- ? In our attempt to provide a safer road environment during the forthcoming Easter Holidays, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport together with all relevant stakeholders will implement a comprehensive road safety plan.
  
- ? Our Operation Juggernaut has been in effect for the past two months to intensify the enforcement of legislation relating to heavy motor vehicles, buses and mini-buses in a well co-ordinated manner to ensure the safety of road users on the province's roads. To date, 61175 vehicles were stopped. 674 of these vehicles were suspended from operating on the province's roads.
  
- ? Other charges from this operation are as follows :
  - 1. 22 501 vehicles were weighed of which 1599 were charged for overloading
  - 2. 1395 were charged for tyres.
  - 3. 607 were charged for brakes.
  
- ? Arrests :
  - 1. 30 x drinking and driving
  - 2. 2 x no driving licence
  - 3. 7 x speed

4. 29 x goods overload
5. 3 x reckless and negligent driving
6. 27 x operating permits
7. 114 x warrants executed
8. 5 x false documentation.

? In summary, the various projects by National, Provincial and Local Authorities will be undertaken during Easter.

1. Project Blue Light – All patrol vehicles will patrol with their blue lights during adverse weather conditions and at night.
2. Lights on Campaign – we encourage motorists via communications to drive with their headlamps on in support of the National campaign day or night.
3. Operation Vuka – this operation is aimed at heavy motor vehicles and drivers, it will focus on all aspects of vehicle and driver.
4. Sector Policing – this operation is aimed at having a patrol vehicle visible on the N3 Corridor every 20 to 30 km's from Van Reenen Pass to Durban.
5. Operation Nil – Sobriety testing of bus drivers at depots.
6. Operation Thatha and Phepha –Ndoda – will focus on pedestrian activity arrests.
7. Operation Yehla Kancane and Thath ' isikororo is ongoing and will be conducted by the Public Transport Enforcement Unit.

? You can be rest assured that no mercy will be shown to any traffic offender. You have been warned: if you do not comply with the law, you will face the full might of the law.

- ? In conclusion, you will remember that during the last summer holidays we embarked on a bold, educational and awareness campaign to break through the communication clutter and to change pedestrian mindset. We were working with celebrities such as radio DJs and soccer teams to convey our road safety messages.
  
- ? This time again, we will be visiting churches and interact with members on road safety issues. We will be working with our road safety ambassadors from the interfaith programme. This initiative is not planned for Easter Holidays only, but it is a whole year programme.
  
- ? Finally, let us 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**