



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE MEMORIAL
SERVICE IN LADYSMITH ON THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2008**

Protocol observed

- ? It is indeed, true that accidents are unpredictable. That is why we call - what are normally referred to as accidents - crashes. What happened in this area last week was not an accident. It was something preventable.

- ? 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. I stand in-front of you here engulfed not only with grief but also anger at the foolish killing of our innocent people.

- ? It is on that score that we say we need a concerted approach by all sectors of our society in order to adequately reduce the carnage. Therefore, the KZN Department of Transport is 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 started to visit the entire religious community of KwaZulu-Natal in their churches and temples to encourage them to participate actively in our struggle against road crashes.

- ? 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.

- ? 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 year we are celebrating 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 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 human lives. As passengers we need to be very aware of safe and legal travel, and not make ourselves vulnerable to abuse.

? We would like to express our sincere condolences to all the bereaved families during this time of extreme grief. The names of the identified deceased are as follows:

☞☞ Simphiwe Ndlovu (24 years)

☞☞ Zakhe Sithole (28 years)

☞☞ Luthando Dlamini (35 years)

☞ Winnie Hlubi (25 years)

☞☞ Vuyo Hlubi (2 years)

☞ Thabisile Kunene (25 years)

☞☞ Busisiwe Mbatha (21 years)

☞☞ Ntombifuthi Myaka (40 years)

☞☞ Gcina Mbuyisa (29 years)

☞ Mantombazane Ntuli (48 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.