



SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE IN HARDING ON THURSDAY 07 AUGUST 2008

Protocol observed

- 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. The estimated cost of the impact of deaths and injuries sustained as a result of road accidents is now R43 billion.

- This country has been experiencing about 15 000 fatalities annually. In spite numerous, high profile visible policing, an alarmingly high number of drivers and pedestrians have continuously abrogated their responsibility with regard to road safety. This reckless attitude has unfairly jeopardised the safety of other road users and continue to put many lives at risk.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- We would like to pass condolences to the families of the following:
 1. Thembisile Zulu (39)
 2. Mvunyelwa Zulu (51)
 3. Thumani Zulu (40)
 4. Landiwe Cele (31)
 5. Thokozile Jama (46)
 6. Fikile Mthembu (33)
 7. Mzulelwa Gida (55)

- Finally, 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.