



SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL TRANSPORT HEAD MR CHRIS HLABISA AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD IN MAPHUMULO ON THURSDAY, 30 APRIL 2009

Protocol observed

- It is indeed with profound sadness that we are gathered here today to mourn the passing away of five people, who died on Saturday as a result of an accident between bridge 15 and 16 on the N2 Inyoni.
- It is unfortunate that one is still attending services like these when our province has done well in reducing road fatalities during the last Easter holidays. Our challenge now is that despite our commitment to ensuring the safety of our people, we continue to lose people on our roads.
- During the past festive season our Department undertook 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.
- Reckless drivers contribute directly to increased poverty in the country. Our innocent people are leaving their families in poverty in a country that is working hard to remove the adverse effects of the apartheid system on the majority of its citizens. Life always turns bad for the family members who are still alive.
- The numbers of HIV/AIDS related deaths versus those of road accidents is too close. The difference between these two is that with HIV/AIDS, the families get to prepare and also have a chance to say goodbye to their loved ones.

- But with road accidents, the families see the person leave in the morning and expect to see them return in the evening but they never do. Another thing is that breadwinners die on our roads and we are thus faced with too many child-headed households.
- We are very concerned about the high rate of deaths amongst youngsters as a result of road-related incidents thus depriving the country of valuable talents. We are losing the youth and future leaders of this country, the newly graduated professionals who are at the root of the country's economy. When one dies we are all at a loss as a nation.
- We would like to pass condolences to the families of the following:

NAME	AGE
1. Skhumbuzo Mahlobo	24
2. Sanele Mahlobo	19
3. Sanele Ngcobo	24
4. Nzuzo Ngcobo	29
5. Mthandeni Mnomiya	21

- We hope that one day the dead will open the eyes of the living and that people realise that road accidents are no accidents, this is murder, reckless driving and irresponsible conduct on the road are murder.

I thank you