



**SPEECH (NOTES) BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON, MR. B.H. CELE AT THE EASTER ROAD
SAFETY LAUNCH ON TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2009.**

All Protocol Observed.

- It has become a trend that as government, we step up our road safety campaigns around particular times of the year when traffic volumes are at their peak. The Easter holiday period is one such time. On Monday last week we launched our Easter Road Safety Campaign nationally and today we have a provincial launch.
- Firstly, I take this opportunity to thank all those men and women in uniform who always spend holiday periods working to keep us all safe. We thank enforcement officers, emergency services and health personnel. We thank you for making this sacrifice for the benefit of road safety.
- While our government is working tirelessly to ensure that South Africa becomes a safe and a better place for all, we continue to lose people on our roads.
- We cannot afford to continue to lose over 40 lives and experience 140 serious injuries every day. Not only is the pain and suffering immeasurable for victims and their families, but the cost to the treasury and the economy is around R56 billion per annum.

- However, it is encouraging to note that while the road death toll increased during last Easter holidays, but we saw a decrease during last Summer holidays compared to 2007. History has shown that it is possible to make a successful contribution to the fight against road accidents.

- During this Easter, enforcement and patrols will be conducted in the province focusing on the following critical offences:
 - Pedestrian Safety
 - Drunk and driving
 - Public Passenger Transport and LDVs (Bakkies)
 - Unsafe overtaking
 - Vehicle without number plates

- This government has developed programmes that have proved to be successful under Asiphephe and I could take the whole day if I were to mention them all. This province has developed the most well researched, multifaceted approach to road safety.

- The success of the programme so far has been the shared commitment and joint responsibility from all sectors of society. We have seen the taxi industry, the business sector, educational institutions, religious institution, local government, the media and a range of organisations coming out in support and rallying behind our road safety initiatives. We thank them all.

- During the past eight years we have had several exciting developments that will have an influence on road traffic management:
 - The reduction in alcohol levels for drivers from 0.08 gram per 100 millilitres of blood to 0.05 gram per 100 millilitres and 0.02 gram for professional drivers.
 - Manpower was increased from 350 enforcement officers to presently more than 900 officers.

- The evidential breath testing instrument was rolled out and legislation was changed to support it.
 - The Traffic and Transport Investigation Unit was formed to deal with fraud and corruption at driving licence test centres.
 - Booze buses were rolled out province wide.
 - Camera enforcement was introduced and legislation was amended to support it.
 - The high tech camera office in Pinetown was opened.
 - The Code of Practice for the RTI was introduced.
 - The special operations group was introduced but was later replaced by Shanela.
 - The mobile brake roller tester was introduced.
- Today, for the first time in KZN I am launching the Automotive Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). This technology can read the number plate of vehicles stationary or moving and instantly tell us about any outstanding businesses e.g. unroadworthy vehicles, unlicensed vehicles etc.
 - Indeed, as government we are proud of our achievements. Road safety for this government is not just an issue during this period. We experience deaths and injuries everyday on our roads but the holiday periods lend themselves to heightened road safety campaigns.
 - In fact, another term in office will allow us to do more. We are the only government that truly transforms your lives and improves safety.
 - In conclusion, as we head towards elections, let us go and make sure that we make our lives better.

I thank you