

## SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE IN HAMMERSDALE ON THURSDAY 04 JUNE 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 Tuesday as a result of an accident involving a bus and a bakkie.
- It is unfortunate that one is still attending services like these when just two months ago our province did 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.
- The transport law does not allow bakkies to transport people. We appeal to parents to take full responsibility for their children's lives. Children should not be packed in bakkies like sardines.
- But we also have a problem with drivers of large vehicles, such as buses and trucks, who have no respect for other motorists.
- 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	Gender
1. Khulekani Khumalo	12 Years	Male
2. Siphamandla Ngubane	23 Years	Male
3. Sibusiso Zondi	15 Years	Male
4. Mable M Khumalo	36 Years	Female
5. Lucky N Gumede	42 Years	Male
6. Siphelele Nxumalo	15 Years	Male

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