



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE FUNERAL  
SERVICE AT MSELENI - MBAZWANA ON SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2009**

**Protocol observed**

- Why are we here today? I remember that in October last year we were gathered in this area for the opening of the vehicle bridge and the sod turning of the access road. We committed our selves to come back in March this year for the opening of that road.
- What we did not know was somebody would not do the right thing but force us to gather before the set date, not to celebrate now but to mourn the passing away of seven people, who died last Saturday as a result of an accident that involved three cars.
- I know that we all came here to comfort the bereaved families and pay tribute to the deceased. But due to recent experience in a gathering like this, it is befitting to explain that as the MEC for Transport in this province I attend almost all the scenes of accidents, all memorial or funeral services especially where five or more people have died.
- The Department also liaises with the affected families to ensure that the deceased are laid to rest with dignity. Our road safety team assists the victims and affected families in following correct procedures to claim from Road Accident Fund. This is done free of charge.

- This is done by a government which has decided to work for all its citizens, without any consideration of political affiliation. It would therefore be immoral to use funerals like this for political gain.
- Our focus must be on how to assist the members of the bereaved families who will carry the permanent scars of losing their loved-ones. We know that these accidents kill people who are economically active. We know that people who drive their cars or travel in public transport are mostly working and have dependants.
- Last year we started an initiative that in all our events we visit families who are victims of road crashes. We have already visited many and have seen how difficult life is for people who lost their sole bread winners in road crashes. You can see the impact of fatalities on people left behind.
- 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 would like to pass condolences to the families of the following:

Name	Age	Gender
Dumisani Mbuyazi	47	Male
Ennica Mbuyazi	43	Female
Thandizwe Mbuyazi	37	Male
Thokozani Mbuyazi	35	Male
Richard Jali		Male

- I am grief-stricken each time I have to witness the pain of family members at gatherings such as these, and no amount of words are sufficient enough to comfort the families during these difficult moments.
- In conclusion, as I said earlier, 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.**