



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE
MEMORIAL SERVICE IN VRYHEID ON THURSDAY 02 APRIL 2009**

Protocol observed

- Our government is working tirelessly to ensure that South Africa becomes a safe and a better place for all. We ensure that infrastructure design should be user friendly to avoid accidents. But despite our commitment to safety of our people, we continue to lose people on our roads.
- It is on that score that we say every one of us should take responsibility for our actions on the road. Accidents are avoidable if only each person values their lives seriously.
- 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.
- Research has shown that a very high percentage of accidents are preceded by a road traffic violation, the human error, 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 R56 billion per annum.

- As we head towards the Easter holidays the Department in conjunction with religious leaders from various faiths will be ensuring that the road safety message goes right down to grassroots level. We cannot afford to lose even one life on our roads.

- On Tuesday we launched our Easter Road Safety Campaign for 2009 where we outlined how we, as the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has planned to ensure your safety on our roads during the coming weeks.

- 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 Department has had several exciting developments such as 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.

- On Tuesday we launched our 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.

- We would like to pass condolences to the families of the following:

Name	Age	Gender	Residence	Occupation
Nokwazi Mthembu	30	Female	Kwangwelu near Nongoma	Professional Nurse
Dumisani Mthethwa	55	Male	Mvuyane	Worked in JBH
Wiseman Nkosi	24	Male	Mondlo	Unemployed
Thulisiwe Mthethwa	24	Female	Paulpietersburg	Worked in JHB
Nhlakanipho Khoza	27	Male	Lakeside	Nurse
Justice Mncube	45	Male	Mvuyane	Worked in JHB
Mlungisi Nyandeni	26	Male	East Mine	Taxi Driver
Linda Zondo	26	Male	Nondweni	Casual worker in Midrand
Zakhele Zondo	42	Male	Mondlo	Self employed
Absalom Mnyandu	63	Male	Kwangenetsheni Nongoma	Pensioner
Simon Mkhize	Not yet known	Male	The body was collected by his brother from Mamelodi to be buried in Swaziland	Unknown

- You can see how these accidents kill our 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.
- 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. Live and let live!

I thank you.