



**SPEECH NOTES FOR KZN TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEAD, MR CHRIS HLABISA, AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, DONNYBROOK ON SATURDAY, THE 14<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST 2010:**

**Protocol observed**

I come from a Department which regards the church as a partner in the fight against road accidents on our roads because we believe that road safety education is everyone's responsibility;

We believe that the church in general has a major role to play in promoting road safety messages;

We want you to help us to remind people that all we want them to do is to Just Do Right;

This means that it is wrong to drink and drive;

It is wrong to drink and walk;

We expect you to wear bright clothes at night when walking on the road;

We expect you to walk on the right side of the road – you must face oncoming vehicles when walking on the road;

When you cross the road, you look on the left, then right – left, then right, and you then cross the road and remain weary of oncoming vehicles;

We are saying when you are embarking on a long journey like church people often do, the driver must have a brake so that he does not have to suffer from fatigue, drowsiness and kill people unnecessarily;

Why do we say these things and keep repeating them like a broken record?

Just two weeks ago, 26 people died in one week-end where we had 36 accidents in KwaZulu-Natal alone;

As we were observing Women's Month, we had a road block at Mooi River which was led by women road traffic inspectors;

A number of people were arrested because their vehicles were not worthy to be on the road or they were not qualified to be on the road themselves;

The campaign is continuing for the rest of the month of August and it is driven by regional commanders who are women;

We have come a long way with the churches and other religious bodies – we would not have a Siyabakhumbula campaign if it was not for the support that the churches have given us over the years;

The Siyabakhumbula campaign is about remembering those who died on the road and remind ourselves that the responsibility to stop the carnage lies with us;

We also wish to call upon the church to heed Premier Zweli Mkhize's provincial government's call to help fight the spread of HIV and help take care of those who are dying as a result of AIDS;

Premier Mkhize's government is calling upon society, including the church to join the fight against poverty;

Hence, we now have a slogan that says One Home, One Garden and it goes on to say One Church, One Garden;

We are calling upon parents not to encourage their children to commit crimes – refuse to buy stolen goods.

We trust that you will continue praying for normality in our society – we want a society that is without road accidents, HIV and AIDS, poverty, crime and unemployment;

We want a society that is free from poverty, a society that can feed itself, a happier society, a society that is at peace with itself so that we can raise our children in a healthier environment.

I thank you.