

**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIASON MR WILLIES MCHUNU DURING THE
DRIVER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION ON SUNDAY, 03 OCTOBER 2010.**

**INKULUMO KANGQONGQOSHE WEZOKUTHUTHA, UKUPHEPHA
KOMPHAKATHI KANYE NOKUXHUMANA KWAZULU-NATAL, UMNUMZANE
WILLIES MCHUNU NGESIKHATHI SOMNCINTISWANO WONYAKA
WABASHAYELI NGESONTO MHLAKA 03 OCTOBER 2010.**

**Programme Director;
Head of Department;
MANCO members present;
Representatives from participating companies;
Officials of the Department;
All participants;
Members of the media;
Distinguished guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Mphathi woHlelo;
Nhloko yoMnyango;
Amalungu ka MANCO akhona;
Abamele izinkampani ezibambe iqhaza;
Izisebenzi zoMnyango;
Bonke abahlanganyele;
Amalungu abezindaba;
Izicukuthwane zonke;
Abesilisa nabesilisa.**

This event is part of our planned activities during the month of October. Since 2005, this month is declared as National Transport Month where we look into perspectives on our transport systems. Each year has had its own theme to which all our activities are aligned. This year our theme says “**Transport - Moving South Africa to do more together**”. We say that nothing is impossible if we all work together.

Lo mcimbi ungomunye wezinhlelo ezisohlelweni ngalenyanga ka October. Kusukela ngo 2005, le nyanga yabekwa ngokusemthethweni njengeNyanga yezokuThutha kaZwelonke lapho sibheka ukusebenza kwethu kwezokuthutha. Wonke unyaka ube nesiqubulo sawo ebesihambisana nezinhlelo zakhona. Kulo nyanga isiqubulo sethu sithi: “**Transport Moving South Africa to do more together**”. Sithi akukho okungenzeki uma sisebenzisana.

It is no coincident that during our provincial launch of the Transport Month on Thursday we raised very serious concerns about drivers on our roads, particularly heavy motor vehicle and public transport drivers. In fact, we are taken aback by the increase in the number of fatalities on our roads during the past two months. What is also disturbing about these accidents is that most of them occur due to the loss of control by the driver, which is testimony to the fact that a very high percentage of accidents are preceded by a human error.

Akuzenzakalelanga ukuthi ngesikhathi siqala iNyanga yezokuThutha ngoLwesine siphakamise izinkinga esinazo ngabashayeli emigaqweni yethu, ikakhulukazi abashayeli bezimoto ezinkulu kanye nabashayeli abathutha umphakathi. Eqinisweni, siphazamiswa inani labantu abashonele emigaqweni yethu ezinyangeni ezimbili ezedlule. Okunye okuphazamisayo ngalezingozi ukuthi zenzeka ngenxa yokuhluleka komshayeli ukulawula imoto, nokuyisiqinisekiso sokuthi inani elikhulu lalezingozi lidalwa iphutha elenziwe umuntu.

Historically, taxi drivers were regarded as the most aggressive and inconsiderate drivers on our roads. This trend has changed, the increase in freight transport and commercial competition has created a situation whereby the heavy vehicles are causing severe road congestion. In most cases these heavy vehicles occupy all traffic lanes illegally which amounts to the hindering free flow of traffic and inconsiderate driving.

Kudala, abashayeli bamatekisi babethathwa njengabashayeli abanesihluku nabangacabangelani emigaqweni yethu. Lenjwayelo isishintshile, ukwanda kwezokuthuthwa kwempahla kanye nokuncintiswana kwezamabhizinisi sekudale isimo lapho izimoto ezisindayo zisidalela ukucinana emigaqweni. Esikhathini esiningi lezimoto ezithutha impahla zisebenzisa bonke olayini basemgaqweni nokwandisa ukuphazamiseka kokuhamba kahle kwezimoto kanye nokungabekezelelani.

I therefore want to believe that initiatives such as the Driver of the Year competition should go a long way in stimulating education amongst our heavy motor vehicle drivers and consequently improve the standard of heavy motor driving in our province's roads. Other than trophies and certificates, this competition must yield tangible results - the reduction in the number of road accidents / fatalities involving trucks and buses. It must ensure that all participants become honest ambassador of road safety in their respective companies.

Ngakho-ke ngithanda ukukholwa ukuthi izinhlelo ezifana nemincintiswano ye Driver of the Year kumele iqhube ulwazi kubashayeli bezimoto ezinkulu iphinde yenze ngcono ukushayelwa kwezimoto ezinkulu kwimigwaqo yesifundazwe sethu. Ngaphandle kwezindondo nezitifiketi, lomncintiswano kumele ihlomulise imiphumela ebonakalayo – ukuncipha kwenani lezingozi zemigwaqo / ukushona okuthinta amaloli namabhasi. Kumele kuqinisekise ukuthi bonke ababambe iqhaza baba ngabameli bokuphepha emgaqweni abathembekile kwizinkampani zabo.

It cannot be correct that every year we have entrants who are passionate about showing their driving skills but the conduct on the road is never improved. You can't be entering this competition for fun. This is part of road safety and we should treat with seriousness it deserves. We need to do away with the perception that South African drivers are bad drivers and show that we can be good drivers who are sensitive to road safety.

Akukho kuhle ukuthi ngawo wonke unyaka sinabangeneli bomncintiswano abanogqozi lokuveza ikhono lokushayela kodwa ukuziphatha emgaqweni akubi ngcono. Awukwazi ukungenela lo mncintiswano ngoba uthi uyazidlalela. Lokhu kuyingxenye yokuphepha emgaqweni futhi kumele kuthathwe njengokubalulekile ngokufanele. Kumele siphelise ngombono wokuthi abashayeli baseNingizimu Afrika bashayela kabi kodwa sibonise ukuthi singakwazi ukuba ngabashayeli abanozwelo ngokuphepha emgaqweni.

As the KZN Department of Transport, we have developed a framework in our efforts to have a renewed direction on ways to achieve increased Road Safety outcomes and advocate a shared responsibility for Road Safety among all individuals including government, businesses and the public. We have committed ourselves to creating a safe road environment by reducing road fatalities by 5% a year between 2010 and 2015.

NjengoMnyango wezokuThutha KwaZulu-Natal, sesiqalise ngohlelo lokugqoguzela izindlela ezintsha zokwandisa ukuPhepha eMgaqweni, nokubhekelela ukubambisana ngezokuPhepha emgaqweni kubo bonke abantu okufaka uhulumeni, amabhizinisi kanye nomphakathi. Sizibophezelele ngokwenza izindawo ezinemigwaqo ephephile ngokunciphisa ukuphela kwemiphefumulo emigaqweni ngo 5% phakathi konyaka ka 2010 kanye no 2015.

In view of our experiences in respect of heavy vehicle drivers, we have planned interventions as follows:

Kukho konke esesikubonile mayelana nabashayeli bezimoto ezinkulu, sihlele ukungenelela kanje:

Graduated licensing system for heavy vehicle drivers:

Uhlelo lwe Graduated licensing system lwabashayeli bezimoto ezinkulu:

Prospective heavy vehicle drivers will be required to obtain a regular driver's license and subsequently build up the required expertise to drive the heavy vehicles by obtaining extra driving certificates.

Abafisa ukuba abashayeli bezimoto ezinkulu bazodinga ukuthola izincwadi zokushayela baphinde bakhulise ikhono labo ekushayeleni izimoto ezinkulu ngokuthi bathole izitifiketi zokushayela ngaphezulu.

Chronic Offenders-Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers:

E-NATIS will identify chronic offenders (companies) and compel such companies to undertake road safety sessions focusing on sound driver behaviour patterns. To also lobby for a legislation amendment regarding penalties for overloading and heavy motor vehicle defects whereby owners are responsible for the penalties and not the actual driver

i-NATIS izobheka lapho abaphula umthetho womgwaqo bephindelela (izinkampani) babaphoqe ukuthi bahambele imihlangano ebhekiswe kwizinhlelo zokuziphatha kwabashayeli. Kuphindwe kuzanywe ukushintha umthetho mayelana nezigwebo zokulayisha impahla ngokweqile kanye nokungasebenzi ngokufanele kwezinye izimoto ezinkulu lapho kungabanikazi okumele bathole izigwebo hhayi umshayeli wemoto.

Soon we will deprive drivers of the privilege of driving on our roads if they are reckless because every bad driver is a potential killer. Soon we will have to take your license if you are a repeat offender and thereby pre-empt your committing a crime of murdering someone on the road.

Sizoqalisa ngokuphuca abashayeli ilungelo lokushayela emigaqweni yethu uma bengaziphathi kahle ngoba umshayeli ongaziphathi kahle ungumbulali.

Kungekudala sizokuphuca izincwadi zokushayela uma uqhubeka uphula umthetho womgwaqo ngalokho sikuvimbela ukuthi ungagcini usubulala umuntu emgaqweni.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity and thank all the participants. I urge you as drivers in KZN, to always support government in its efforts to decrease road accidents. Drive safely – a healthy driver means that there is a healthy nation. An unhealthy driver poses a potential road risk. Let us respect human life, and treat road carnage with the seriousness it deserves.

Sengiphetha, ngithatha lelithuba ukubonga bonke ababambe iqhaza.

Ngiyancenga bashayeli baKwaZulu-Natal, ukuba nihlale nibambisene nohulumeni ekulweni nokunciphisa izingozi emigaqweni. Shayela ngokuphepha – umshayeli ophilile usho ukuthi isizwe siphilile. Umshayeli ongaphilile unokudala ingozi emgaqweni noma nini. Asihloniphe izimpilo zabantu, siphinde siqinisekise ukuthi asibabulali abantu emgaqweni?

I thank you

Ngiyabonga