

**SPEECH (NOTES) FOR KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. WILLIES MCHUNU DURING THE  
KZN PROVINCIAL TRANSPORT MONTH LAUNCH, 30 SEPTEMBER 2010.**

Programme Director;

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature present;

His worship the Mayor;

Councillors present;

AmaKhosi AseNdlunkulu;

Head of Department;

All community structures who are our stakeholders;

All our law enforcement personnel;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me extend a special word of gratitude to all of you for having honoured our invitation to this important gathering, the launch of the 2010 Transport Month in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. This provincial launch is subsequent to the national launch which was officiated by Minister Sbu Ndebele in KwaMashu on Monday. We as a province pledged ourselves to support all programmes brought to us by the National Department of Transport.

We know that for the past six years the month of October 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.

We will have a strong focus on all areas of transport, namely the user, operator and infrastructure with a strong emphasis on Road Safety. The province of KwaZulu-Natal has experienced an increase in the number of fatalities on our roads during the past few months. And, with the festive season on our door step, some drastic measures have had to be taken.

The recently released statistics have shown that nationally, out of 39 routes identified as having hazardous locations, five sites appear within KwaZulu-Natal.

<b>Route</b>	<b>To &amp; From</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>
N2	Durban – Tongaat	42
N2	Empangeni – Mtubatuba	25
N2	Port Shepstone – Scottburgh	21
N2	Stanger – Empangeni	21
R102	Tongaat – Stanger	20

To this end, we have developed a framework which has provided an opportunity to show 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 realize that changing road use culture might take time and some changes are not possible without the active co-operation of multiple sectors.

We have committed ourselves to creating a safe road environment by reducing road fatalities by 5% a year between 2010 and 2015. We have planned interventions, in accordance with the five E's of road safety improvement policies, covering aspects with regards to **E**ducation, **E**nforcement, **E**ngineering, **E**ncouragement and **E**valuation.

Each of the three spheres of government has responsibilities in respect of the five E's on their own road networks within KZN. Each one also has functions that impact on the road networks of other spheres of government. Because of this, close co-operation is required between all spheres of government to achieve the goals set for accident reduction.

### **Compulsory road safety education in schools:**

Road Safety education must be a standard subject in primary and secondary schools - Integration of Road Safety into Life Orientation, which is a compulsory learning area. The KZN Department of Transport will enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Education to facilitate the implementation of Road Safety education programmes at schools.

### **Upgraded requirements for driver testing:**

Young and novice drivers face high levels of risk when making the transition from supervised to solo driving. Lack of experience, propensity for risk-taking, and a number of potential sources of distraction all contribute to elevated crash rates for novice/young drivers. It is therefore necessary to implement a minimum number of driving hours and / or kilometres on different road types for different classes of drivers' licenses before a licence can be awarded.

A record of the numbers of hours and / or kilometres driven will be maintained by both the training/driving school as well as the licensing department. Emphasis will also be placed on the type and size of vehicle that should be used for a learner to pass a driving test.

**Certification of driving schools:**

The KZN DoT will facilitate the establishment of a certification system for driving schools which will set standards for the quality of the driving schools themselves and of the driving instructors. This will include a definition of key result areas (KRAs) for driving lessons.

To improve the instructor's abilities, key performance indicators (KPI) for driver instructors will be defined and included in the permit system for instructors.

**Graduated licensing system for heavy vehicle drivers:**

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

**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

**Improve the skills of new and existing drivers:**

The KZN DoT will develop and implement programmes for improving the driving skills of new and existing drivers. A pilot will be run at selected testing stations whereby persons who have just obtained their drivers licences will be subjected to a mandatory road safety session focusing on basic road safety rules.

### **Refresher courses for serious and frequent offenders:**

The refresher course is planned to educate drivers who have committed a number of serious offences. For all types of serious offences a specific number of convictions will be determined, after which a refresher course must be attended. This system will be linked to the new point demerit system. During the refresher courses the physical condition (eyesight, disabilities, etc.) of drivers will also be reviewed by the responsible instructor.

### **Road Safety Symposium:**

The responsibility for reducing road trauma is shared among government, communities, industry, businesses, individuals, CRSC's, NGO's, interfaith organisations, Amakhosi and the RAF. It is on that score that a symposium will soon be held to which all structures, academics and experts in the field of Road Safety including communities with an interest in road safety will be invited.

### **Infrastructure**

Other than road safety campaigns, during the October Month the KZN Department of Transport will be hosting numerous activities in various communities in the province. These activities are a commitment by our government to see future growth in the economy through efficiency in the transport sector.

We have always assured our people even before the 2010 FIFA World Cup that while our focus was more on 2010 and beyond and we were affected by the recession, we would not cut costs to the detriment of the people of this province. We have continued to provide transport infrastructure particularly to our rural communities.

Some roads and bridges that have been completed are going to be opened during this Transport Month. In fact, according to our plan by the end of this financial year we will have officially opened 21 projects – either road, vehicle bridge or pedestrian bridge – in the province. Because we have said that we want to finish all outstanding projects first, by the same time we will have had six sod-turning ceremonies to indicate that the well-oiled machinery is still running smoothly

We are happy that in line with our policy, the construction cost of these projects always remains an economic benefit to the local communities where contractors source all materials from the area and employ all available artisans as well as labour from the nearby communities. On completion, local roads are maintained by our Zibambele road maintenance programme, which also creates more employment opportunities for impoverished women.

### **Public transport**

The Provincial Leadership of the taxi industry committed themselves to working together to ensure that the taxi industry is transformed from the state which is beset with confusion and violence to a peaceful and organized industry where lawful operators can conduct their businesses profitably. It is only a few associations that have been a thorn in government's side, like KwaZwelibomvu, Portshepstone, Bergville and Mandeni among others. But generally we are on track to bringing about stability in the industry.

Programme Director; allow me to conclude by thanking all of you for attending today's provincial Transport Month Launch. I appeal to everyone who gets behind the wheel from now onwards to make a concerted effort to obey the traffic laws. And, to support our effort aimed at reducing road fatalities. Drive Safe and Stay Alive. It is not only the right thing to do – failure means Uyisaphula-Mthetho. Alufakwa KwaZulu-Natal Lubuya NesaPhula-Mthetho.

**I thank you**