

**SPEECH NOTES DELIVERED BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON, MR WILLIES MCHUNU AT THE LAUNCH OF WOMEN'S MONTH MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ROAD BLOCKS HELD AT MOOI RIVER ON FRIDAY - 06 AUGUST 2010.**

Programme Director;

Head of Department

Heads of RTI and Special Operations;

Local Traffic Authorities;

All law enforcement agencies

All emergency services personnel present;

Community Roads Safety Councils;

Rural Transport Forums;

Roads Safety Ambassadors;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Firstly, let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for attending today's launch of our 2010 Women's Month Multi-disciplinary Road Blocks campaign. It is very encouraging to see that our province is armed with so many women in the law enforcement.

The truth is that it takes a brave human being to stand what you see in the course of your work. The nature of your work is not easy, yet you still persevere and make sacrifices for the benefit of road safety on our roads. Therefore, today we wish to pay a special thanks to all women enforcement officers, emergency services and health personnel.

We all know our trend that as government, we step up our road safety campaigns around particular times of the year when traffic volumes are at their peak. This includes long weekend such as this one starting today. This weekend an influx of traffic is expected within the KwaZulu-Natal province which is a holiday destination for most South African citizens and international tourists.

But in honour of our women during the month of August, we say today's activity officially heralds the start of the very intensive road safety campaign that will be rolled out at all of our four regions in the province. This campaign will entail multi- disciplinary roadblocks driven 100% by female officers from RTI, PETU, SAPS, Local Traffic Authorities and any other law enforcement agency in the province.

Each Region will have its own plan for the month. But they will work for common goal, targeting the following offences:

- Lights;
- Brakes;
- Overloading;
- Driver fatigue;

- Number Plates;
- Drunken driving;
- Unlicensed drivers;
- Abuse of state vehicles;
- Un-roadworthy vehicles;
- Unlicensed vehicles;
- Dangerous goods enforcement;
- Un-roadworthy public transport;
- Un-roadworthy heavy motor vehicle.

Having said that, I am at liberty to reveal that our women enforcement teams in Pietermaritzburg and Durban will be in full force on Monday as part of celebrating the Women's Day. In Durban, a multi-disciplinary roadblock will set up at Sbusiso Mdakane. This identified spot is known for illegal activities including motorists driving under influence of alcohol, operating motor vehicles without proper documents and operating unroadworthy motor vehicles.

Pietermaritzburg has over the past years been famous for highest number of drinking and driving motorists. As part of this campaign, on Monday roadblock will be set up on the southbound Orthman Road during the morning shift and on the northbound Orthman during the afternoon, running for approximately four hours.

Programme Director, we are targeting all the above because it is now clear to us that the biggest problem we face on our roads is caused by persons who have no regard for their lives and that of others. It is a result of this realization that our Road Safety Strategy centres primarily on Aggressive Law Enforcement. We are saying – *Alufakwa KwaZulu-Natal Lubuya Nesaphula-mthetho.*

We need to go all out to ensure that there is a further reduction this year and that fewer families, if any, have to endure such extreme grief and trauma. We will continue our zero tolerance approach for traffic offences and ensure that those who endanger the lives of other road users receive no mercy.

Earlier on I acknowledged the dedication and sacrifice of our female law enforcement officers. But again I want to emphasise that this the time when your professionalism will also be tested in the process. I therefore encourage you to keep on with your good work. As women you may be polite when talking to your clients, but be firm in situations that demand you to do so.

I now take this opportunity to appeal to everyone who gets behind the wheel during this long weekend to make a concerted effort to obey the traffic laws. And, to support our effort aimed at reducing road fatalities. Please avoid spending an unexpected holiday at a special resort courtesy of the Departments of Transport (RTI), South African Police Service, and the Department Correctional Services. Finally, on behalf of the entire KwaZulu-Natal Government, I wish all our women in the province a special month filled with joy. Drive Safe, Stay Alive and Just DO Right.

**I thank you**