

## **REMARKS BY KZN TRANSPORT HEAD MR CHRIS HLABISA DURING THE HANDOVER OF RTI PATROL VEHICLES ON 18 JANUARY 2012.**

### **Greetings**

Colleagues, I hope you have had a wonderful start to the year. The past year 2011 has been a hectic period but it has also brought renewed hope to the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

I would like to convey my deepest appreciation to all staff members and give credit, particularly to our RTI officers whose tireless devotion to duty has ensured that the majority of our road users arrive alive at their destinations. We acknowledge your determination to go beyond the call of duty.

But colleagues, we are under no illusion about the magnitude of the task at hand and the obligation we have in ensuring that there is a significant reduction of carnage on our roads.

Today we are handing over this batch of 16 patrol vehicles which forms part of the Department's initiative to procure 37 patrol vehicles in this financial year. The next consignment of vehicles is expected to be delivered this month and will be distributed in February 2012.

The purchasing of these vehicles addresses the following:

- a) Shortfalls that stations are currently experiencing in their vehicle fleets;
- b) Uneconomical vehicles (high mileages) that require replacement.

Included in this batch are 4 LDV's which are being allocated to stations that cover rural roads within the province, and 12 Toyota SEDENS.

The purchasing of these vehicles ensures that the Inspectorate has the necessary resources to effectively and efficiently perform its mandate to make the roads in this province safer.

I am confident, therefore, that these patrol vehicles will enable you to do your work properly.

They are an additional fleet that will enable us as the Department to further capacitate our ongoing attempts to make a difference in reducing and eradicating the carnage on our roads throughout the year through maximum visibility and strict enforcement of traffic laws. There can be no effective visibility without efficient and reliable mobility.

In fact, we have always maintained that we need to ensure that our traffic officers are visible on the road. This is something that the public sees as a commitment to safety on the road. It makes them feel safer and protected.

Again this year, we will continue to revive our morals and consciences. We are taking measures against any wrongdoing whether within or outside the Department.

That is why we want to warn all officers here that you must never indulge yourselves in corrupt practices. Do not abuse these vehicles. They are work tools and therefore they are strictly for work purposes.

If you fail to do so, you will be caught and you will pay the price. It has happened to others, and it can also happen to you. And that price could be the end of your career in traffic law enforcement.

With these few words, we are officially handing over these patrol vehicles to you. You can now perform your duties to the best of your ability.

I thank you.