

**INKULUMO KANGQONGQOSHE OBAMBILE WEZOKUTHUTHA, UKUPHEPHA  
NOKUXHUMANISA UMPHAKATHI KWAZULU-NATAL UDKT SIBONGISENI  
DHLOMO YOKWETHULA IVIKI LOKUPHEPHA EMGWAQENI NGAPHANSI  
KOHLLO LWE UNITED NATIONS E-HOWICK:**

07 May 2013

Mphathi wohlelo;

IMeya yoMkhandlu waseMngeni;

Amakhansela wonke akhona;

Abefundisi abakhona ngaphansi kohlaka lwe-Interfaith;

All Road Safety Ambassadors;

All law enforcement personnel, including RTI, SAPS and Municipal Police;

Izisebenzi zeminyango kaHulumeni eyahlukene;

All learners present;

All our stakeholders;

Members of the Media;

Umphakathi wonke ;

Nginyanibingelela.

Programme Director, allow me to thank all of you for attending today's provincial official launch of the United Nations Global Road Safety Week. Today, as the province of KwaZulu-Natal, we are joining the international community in the world's collaborative effort to make a long-lasting impact towards making roads safer for all.

Siyazi sonke ukuthi iSouth Afrika iyilungu lenhlangano yamazwe omhlaba, i-United Nations, ngakho-ke iba yingxenye yazo zonke izinqumo nemikhankaso esuke yenziwa ezingeni lamazwe omhlaba.

Nathi-ke lapha KwaZulu-Natal njengesifundazwe siyingxenye ebalulekile yalelizwe, hhayi nje ngoba singesinye sezifundazwe kodwa ngoba siyisifundwazwe esinomthelela kakhulu kuko konke okwenzeka ezweni. We are very influential as province and our conduct has a direct bearing on the country's image whether we are talking about HIV and AIDS, road crashes etc.

Ukubaluleka kwethu kuye kuvule obala uma kukhishwa izibalo ngokuziphatha kwethu ekufafazekeni kwengculazi, izinga lezingozini zomgwaqo kanye nobugebengu. Izibalo zethu njengesifundazwe yizona ezivame ukulawula ukuthi isimo sinjani ezweni lonke.

Kukhona isikhathi lapho abanye bake bathi uma ungakhipha iKwaZulu-Natal ebalazweni laseNingizimu Afrika, zingehla ngendlela eyisimanga izibalo zengculazi ezweni lonke.

Now, this annual road safety week is regarded by the United Nations General Assembly as a call on all nations to create a safer road for all citizens. The theme for this year is pedestrian safety.

We are drawing your attention to the urgent need to better protect pedestrians worldwide, generate action on the measures needed to do so, and contribute to achieving the world-wide theme of the Decade of Action for Road Safety between 2011 and 2020.

Phela njengoba sengishilo ukuthi siyingxenye ye-United Nations, nathi sesazibophezela ngokusebenzela ukwehlisa ukufa kwabantu emgwaqeni ngohhafu phakathi konyaka ka-2011 no-2020, okungumgomo obekwe yiyona i-United Nations.

Lo mkhankaso waleli viki uza vele nathi njengomNyango wezokuThutha esifundazweni sisakhungathwe izingozi ezingapheli, okuhlanganisa nokufa nokulimala kwabahamba ngezinyawo emigwaqeni yethu.

During December 2012, 1 221 people died on our roads nationally. Approximately 40 percent of these fatalities involved pedestrians, the majority of which walk on the road while under the influence of alcohol. This means that about 488 people who were not even in vehicles lost their lives, and 488 families lost loved ones during this one-month alone. And again alcohol, which the national minister of health has cited as the prime contributor towards illnesses that could be avoided, is a culprit as it is responsible for the death of many people, drivers and pedestrians on our roads.

In KwaZulu-Natal, we have achieved a substantial reduction in fatalities of more than 33% since 2009, but the actual percentage of pedestrians killed has not significantly decreased. We really need to work harder around that. There is a clear need for us to target pedestrians with road safety awareness messages.

Njengesifundazwe sinqume ukuwuletha lapha e-Howick lo mcimbi wanamhlanje endaweni enomlando, lapho okwabanjelwa khona umholi ohlonishwa umhlaba wonke, uBaba uNelson Mandela.

Sihlale sisho ukuthi ezweni lonke akekho umuntu ongakaze athinteke engozini yomgwaqo. Noma ngabe akuwena owalimala kodwa sikhona isihlobo sakho noma umngani osewake walimala noma washona engozini yomgwaqo.

Sizokhumbula-ke ukuthi naye-ke uBaba uMadiba ungomunye oseke walahlekelwa umzukulu wakhe uZenani Mandela khona engozini yomgwaqo ngesikhathi kujatshulelwa indebe yebhola yomhlaba ngo 2010.

It is therefore appropriate that today KwaZulu-Natal further support the Zenani Mandela Make Roads Safe Campaign by committing to take action to prevent child road injuries. We have just demonstrated our support in the form of a walk that has just taken place in this very place where Zenani's grandfather made history as a leading South African political prisoner in the world.

We take this opportunity to thank all the learners from the surrounding schools who are here for taking part in the day's proceedings. I want to remind you my dear children that it is in your interest to involve yourselves in such initiatives.

Our study reveals that a number of pedestrians who die on the roads are children, especially school going children. That is why as government we put in place programmes to ensure your safety as you walk to and from school.

Kodwa njengoba nesiZulu sisho sithi lugotshwa lusemanzi, we need to make you understand now while you are young ukuthi kubaluleke kanjani ukuphepha emgwaqeni. Mhlambe lena ngenye yezindlela ezosisiza ukukhiqiza abashayeli abahlonipha imithetho yomgwaqo, abangeke bazenze izingozi esikhathini esizayo.

One will not run away from the fact that factors which have aggravated the challenge of pedestrian fatalities in South Africa would include a lack of infrastructure such as adequate pavements or road crossing facilities, a lack of formal orientation in road usage, a traffic mix with vehicles and pedestrians sharing the road, poor town and transport planning for facilities such as schools, community halls, bars and shebeens, as well as an absence of enforcement in some areas.

Therefore campaigns like the one we are launching today assist the provinces a great deal to organise events at hazardous locations towards raising public awareness around pedestrian issues, and highlighting the multi-faceted approach towards the implementation of remedial action e.g. engineering, education, enforcement and evaluation.

We have other activities planned for this week for various schools, particularly in the Ladysmith Region. Some learners will be provided with much needed warm, long sleeved reflector jackets that will enhance their visibility while walking on the road.

Siyathemba-ke ukuthi ukubandakanyeka kwemiphakathi ekuhlonzeni izindawo ezivame ukuba nezingozi bese kuhlelwa kahle ngokubambisana ekulungiseni isimo sezokuphepha, yikona okuzolekelela ekutheni abantu bawuthathe njengowabo nabo lo mkhankaso, kungabi sengathi nje okaHulumeni kanti owenu uqobo.

It is when we encourage ownership and responsibility from the members of the public in so far as road safety education is concerned that we will be able to bring down the number of pedestrians related deaths.

Bese ngike ngakubalula ukuthi njengoba sesingene onyakeni wezimali omusha nje, besisanda kuba nocwaningo olusivezele ukuthi imikhankaso yethu isikwazile ukwenza umehluko ka-33.6% wokufa kwabantu emigwaqeni kusukela lo Hulumeni ungenile ngo-2009 kuze kube wu-March walo nyaka ka-2013.

Lokhu-ke sikubona kuyinkomba yokuthi njengesifundazwe sizokwazi ukwehlisa ukufa kwabantu emgwaqeni ngo-50% ngonyaka ka-2020 njengoba bengike ngakuveza ukuthi esikwenzayo kuhambisana nokuyalela kwenhlangano yezizwe zomhlaba ngaphansi kwe-United Nations ezivumelana ngazwi linye ukuthi ukulwa nezingozi zomgwaqo kuyinto okumele ibe yenye yezinselelo isintu sonkana ebhekana nayo ngokuzimisela.

Ngaphandle kwemali esetshenziswayo ukusiza nokuhlenga abantu ababa sengozini, kuphinde kube nezinye izindleko futhi zabameli, kanti uma abangene engozini beshonile, kube sekulanjwa futhi ekhaya abashonile bekungabantu abondla noma abawusizo emndenini.

Siyabanxusa-ke abantu bakithi ukuthi baphikisane nokuthi iKwaZulu-Natal ihlale ihamba phambili ezweni uma kukhulunywa ngezinto ezingalungile. Ngeke ukuthi njalo uma kukhulunywa ngokufa kwabantu ngenxa yengculazi, izingozi zomgwaqo, udlame lwamatekisi, udlame lwezepolitiki nobunye ubugebengu, kulokhu kwabalwa iKwaZulu-Natali njengendawo ehamba phambili kukona.

Lona makube wunyaka ophephe kunayo yonke esesike sadlula kuyona esifundazweni sethu.

**I thank you.**