

**KWAZULU-NATAL EASTER ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**  
**Speech by MEC for Health, Dr. Sibongiseni Dhlomo, delivered on**  
**behalf of MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr.**  
**Willies Mchunu**

**Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium, Clermont, EThekwini**

**Sunday, 13 April 2014**

- Programme Directors;
- Mayor of EThekwini Metropolitan Municipality, Your Worship, Cllr. James Nxumalo;
- Councillors in EThekwini;
- Head of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, Sbusiso Gumbi;
- Provincial Police Commissioner; Lt.-General Ngobeni;
- Members of the Interfaith;
- Chairperson of KZN-SANTACO, Mr. Boy Zondi;
- Leadership of KwaNabuco;
- Leadership of KZN CCPA;
- Officials of various government departments;
- Members of the Multi-Disciplinary Law Enforcement teams;
- Members of the media;
- The people of Clermont and EThekwini as a whole;
- The people of KwaZulu-Natal province.

Sanibonani!

Siyalibonga ithuba lokuhlanganyela kulomkhakhanso wokuphepha njengoba sibheke esikhathini sePhasika.

Ikakhulukazi siyajabula ukuba nani lapha endaweni yaseClermont, eThekwini.

Sizokhumbula ukuthi lendawo inomlando ojulile emzabalazweni wenkululeko yaseNingizimu Afrika.

Indawo yaseClermont imqoka ikakhulukazi njengoba sigubha iminyaka engu-20 kwazuzwa inkululeko nenqubo yentando yabantu.

I-Clermont kwaba yikhaya kwintsika yethu yomzabalazo nalapha kwakuhlala khona owayengu-Mongameli wokuqala we-United Democratic Front (UDF), ubaba u-Archibald Gumede, owayibamba ishisa.

Akusiyena kuphela kodwa bakhona nabanye abaholi abanohlonze abakhiqizwa khona la eClermont.

As we celebrate our 20 years of freedom and democracy, let us remember all our heroes and heroines. As we are gathered here, we also note that the provincial Freedom Flame is being presented in Inanda – ekhaya lika Mongameli wokuqala ka Khongolose, u Dr. John Langalibalele Dube. Sizokhumbula futhi ukuthi ubaba u-Nelson Mandela, owaba nguMongameli wokuqala eNingizimu Afrika ekhululekile, wavotela khona le eNanda.

Ngayo i-Freedom Flame – eseyedlulile lapha e Clermont -- uHulumeni wesifunda uhlose ukuthi abantu bakithi babhiyozele intuthuko esilethiwe emiphakathini.

Mukhulu kakhulu umsebenzi esiwenzile njengoHulumeni ka-ANC ngenhloso yokushintsha izimpilo zabantu.

- Sakhe izindlu;
- Sinyuse izimali zesibonelelo soGogo noMkhulu, izingane ezintulayo Kanye nabakhubazekile;
- Sakhe imigwaqo;
- Safaka ugesi;

- Sakha imitholampilo Kanye nezibhedlela esibala kuzo i-Albert Luthuli – ekhona lapha eThekwini.

Namhlanje abantu abangu **16-million** bahlinzekwa ngemali yesibonelelo. Lemali isize kakhulu ukuxosha indlala emakhaya. KwaZulu-Natali badlula u-**3.7 million** abahlomula kulemali.

Ngaphansi kwalo Hulumeni waKwaZulu-Natali, sekube nokwenyuka ngo-**80%** kwezikole okufundwa kuzo mahhala neziphakela abafundi ababalelwa ku-**2.1 million** ukudla okunempilo khona ezikoleni.

Isibalo sezikole okufundwa mahhala senyuke safinyelela ku-**4 739** ngonyaka odlule ka-2013, ezikoleni zomphakathi ezingu-**6 009** esifundazweni.

Lolu hlelo luhambisana nokuzibophezela kukaHulumeni ukulwa nendlala nobubha emiphakathini ebonakala intula kakhulu.

Lapha KwaZulu-Natali sikwazile ukwenza ngcono imiphumela ka-Grade 12 isuka ku-**57.8%** eminyakeni emihlanu edlule yafinyelela ku-**77.4%** ngonyaka odlule ka-2013.

Uma ubheka ukuhlinzekwa ngogesi, sithola ukuthi isifunda sakithi siyaqhakaza kakhulu njengoba u-**80%** wezakhamuzi zihlala emizini ekhanyayo.

Kanjalo namanzi nokuthuthwa kwendle sekungenile kweminingi imiphakathi.

Kafushane nje, ngiphakamisa lezizinhlelo ukuqhakambisa ukuthi impela i-KwaZulu-Natal isiyindawo engcono kunangaphambi kuka-1994! KwaZulu-Natal is indeed a better place to live than in 1994.

But today we are here to officially launch the Provincial 2014 Easter Road Safety campaign to ensure safety on our roads during this period – and beyond.

During the Easter holidays, we usually see a lot of citizens travelling to many destinations including areas of worship and churches to celebrate this important religious period in the Christian calendar.

As the province of KwaZulu-Natal, we anticipate another busy Easter weekend – and an increase in traffic volumes starting from Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup> until the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2014.

While this is a period for us to receive blessings, to renew our spirits and enjoy quality time with our loved ones, we urge all to remain at their most vigilant on the road.

In the year of celebrating our 20 years of freedom and democracy, let us all commit ourselves to playing our part in stopping road carnages. Road safety is a collective responsibility. This means we must all say no to bad behaviour – including the following:

- We must say “no” to drinking and driving;
- We must say “no” to un-roadworthy vehicles;
- We must say “no” to impatience on the road;
- We must say “no” to road rage; and
- We must say “no” to driving long distances without rest.

At the same time, we must all agree that life is God’s greatest gift to man. Life is precious. Because it is precious, then we must all value it and thereby honour God’s wishes. And this starts by saying “yes” to many things – including:

- Strictly observing road traffic rules at all times;
- Fastening seatbelts every time;
- Giving right of way, whenever necessary;
- Reporting irresponsible driving behaviour; and
- Licensed and experienced drivers.

Our intensified law enforcement campaigns over this period will run over four phases. This includes:

- The Freedom Day Long Weekend of the 25-28 April 2014 right up until Workers day on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.
- A total of **792 traffic officers** will be strategically deployed to problematic or high traffic volume areas.
- The integration with other law enforcement services will also heighten our visibility and presence on the road. These include the South African Police Service, Customs, Cross-Border and Immigration forces, as well as metro and local municipality police.

Every traffic station will ensure that there is a vehicle check points in all areas of the province to root out irresponsible behavior from our roads.

Sifuna ukuqinisekisa ukuthi siyazi gwema izigozi lapha KwaZulu-Natali. Sifuna izivakashi zifike ziphephile futhi zihambe ziphephile. Nathi esihlala lapha kulesifundazwe sisale siphephile. Luzobe lungafakwa, lubuya nesaphulamthetho!

This community of Clermont knows too well the devastation and the negative impact that fatal road accidents cause. We all will remember the unfortunate accident that occurred last year September 5<sup>th</sup> – when a truck crashed into taxis and claimed the lives of 24 innocent people off M-13, in Pinetown.

Lengozi isalokhu iyisilonda kuthina ngoba sasiqala ukubona inhlekelele efana nalena. Siyacela ukuthi niqhubeke nokuyeseka imindeneni eyaba yizisulu zale ngozi.

That accident happened only four days after another unfortunate accident between Melmoth and eShowe, which claimed 11 lives – nine of whom were young girls from Umkhosi woMhlanga.

Ukuphepha emigwaqeni kuqala ngami nawe.

Ukuphila kwethu sonke yikho okubalulekile nokuzoqinisekisa ukuthi siqhubekela phambili njengesizwe. Njengoba siya okhethweni lukazwelonke mhlaka-7 May, kubalulekile ukuthi siyovotela ukuqhubeka kwentuthuko.

Asambeni siye kovota, sivotele impilo engcono – esesiqalile ukuyibona ngamehlo kuleminyaka eyishumi eyedlule KwaZulu-Natali nengamashumi ababili adlule eNingizimu Afrika yonkana.

Ngokubambisana asiqhubeke sithuthukise izwe lakithi ukuze liye phambili.

Sengiphetha, ngiyathanda futhi ukuthi sikhumbule amaqhawe namaqhawekazi alwela inkululeko yethu.

Ikakhulukazi ngiphakamisa u Chris Hani, owabulawa ontamo lukhuni mhlaka 10 April 1993. U-Hani wabe enguMkhuzi omkhulu wo-Mkhonto weSizwe, uNobhala Jikelele waMakhomanisi aphinde abe yilungu eliphezulu kwi National Executive Committee ka African National Congress – Umbutho wabantu.

Long Live the Spirit of Chris Hani Long Live!

May you all have a blessed Easter weekend!

Ngiyabonga.