



**Address by Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumede  
on the occasion of the Greater North Taxi Region Prayer  
Session**

**06 October 2016 – 09h00  
Princess Magogo Stadium – KwaMashu**

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- Programme Director,
  - Leadership of the Greater North Taxi Region,
  - Fellow Councillors,
  - Captains of industry,
  - Stakeholders and partners,
  - Taxi owners and operators,
  - Taxi drivers and their assistants,
  - Speakers in different topics,
  - Distinguished guests,
  - Ladies and gentlemen,
  - All protocol observed,

## **Sanibonani!**

It is with great pleasure to celebrate National Transport Month with you.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here this morning to tackle important issues. Today, we want to encourage road safety and respect amongst drivers, commuters and pedestrians.

This prayer session will also create a platform to strengthen relations between government and the taxi industry.

As we celebrate national Transport Month, eThekweni has planned a series of road safety awareness campaigns to be held throughout the month.

Also during this month, progress made on GO! Durban will be highlighted. We must rally behind the transformation of society through the delivery of safe and reliable public transport.

Ladies and gentlemen, road accidents and road fatalities are of great concern to government. In the period of January 2014 and August 2016, over 5 thousand accidents have happened in eThekweni involving public transport vehicles.

About 63 percent of these accidents are caused by drivers braking suddenly, following too closely, changing lanes haphazardly and turning without indicating.

About 70 percent of fatal accidents involve pedestrian. These happen when a pedestrian is crossing or walking on the roadway and drivers fail to slow down.

The 5 most common causes of accidents are:

1. Dangerous lane changing.
2. Following a vehicle too closely.
3. Reckless overtaking.
4. Failing to keep left on the roadway and approaching oncoming traffic.
5. Reversing when it is not safe to do so.

So ladies and gentlemen, we want to strengthen our partnership with the Greater North Taxi Region to curb road accidents.

Government is committed to working with the taxi industry, to minimise road accidents and to promote the industry's contribution to economic growth.

Through your service thousands of commuters are able to travel to work, school and social activities daily. This service moves people around efficiently because you are part of the viable public transport system of our City.

The partnership between government and the taxi industry ensures that the industry operates in a manner that is viable, efficient and sustainable. Like other sectors of the economy, your industry has its own unique challenges.

Such cooperation will ensure that together we can resolve challenges without eroding the positive gains that have been made to capacitate this industry which is the backbone of our economy.

With those few words, I am confident that through our combined efforts we will build a connected and prosperous City.

**Thank you!**