

**Welcoming Remarks by Cllr Mondli Mthembu at the Launch of
Transport Month 2017 at JL Dube Stadium of Inanda – 05
October 2017**

Programme Director,

MEC of Transport and Safety Liaison, Hon Mxolisi Thomas Kaunda,

Her Worship, Mayor Zandile Gumede,

HOD of the Department,

Members of parliament,

Councillors present,

Members of the community,

Representatives of different sectors in transport,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

Greetings to all the stakeholders and welcome to our last day of the transport month programme

Transport plays a key role in our lives because it moves goods and people. Transporter is a driver of our economy. We have identified transport to drive strategic goals for our people

- ensure an efficient and integrated infrastructure network that serves as a catalyst for social and economic development
- ensure a transport sector that is safe and secure
- improve rural access, infrastructure and mobility
- improve public transport systems
- increase the contribution of the transport sector to job creation
- increase the contribution of the transport sector to environmental protection.

So it is important that during National Transport Month that we place emphasis on educating and informing our citizens of the dangers that are inherent in transport, BUT also the very positive ways we can influence and ensure our individual and collective safety relating to transport.

One of our immediate priority, as ANC led government, is to put a stop to the terrible tragedies that unfold each and every day on our roads. (Akuphele ukufa kwabantu emgwaqeni yethu)

Our strategy as the City is (1) Improve our road infrastructure (2) Educate public about road safety and rules; and lastly (3) law enforcement – siyabopha.

Improvement of Roads

We have set aside huge budget to improve and build new roads in order to minimize road fatalities. We have approved budget towards fixing of existing road infrastructure, improve road signage and other road safety related costs.

This is done as a first step on our three step strategy, which is to improve roads, educate the public and enforce the law.

Education campaign

This roadshow is one of many that are being held at public in the City and aims to provide all residents with information to empower them about safe road travel while highlighting potential dangers on the road.

We, through Metro Police and ETA, are engaging in massive community activation to educate communities about road safety and safety in general. These programmes are done at a ward and war room level. We urge communities to participate in these forums.

Much is being done in the city to transform public transport in what is known as GO!Durban. We are working towards making transport faster, safer, affordable and reliable. The plans include dedicated bus lanes, as well as making provision for people to walk and cycle around the city, and to be able to easily access their chosen mode of transport.

Work is being done to improve the driving techniques and customer care of those working in the sector. We are educating people about road safety – where to cross roads, when to cross them and adhering to the rules of the road. (ningaweli irobot libomvu kwabahamba ngezinyawo)

Siyawukhuza umkhuba wokunqamula ngezinyawo kwiFree Way nakuJantshi wezitimela.

I want to call on civil society to work with us in educating our people on the rules of the road and the country's laws. People must Report bad driving. They must Refuse to travel in unroadworthy vehicles and a drunk driver. They must insist on a level of customer service and care-ningavumi ukuhlukunyezwa.

Finally: Law enforcement

We would to urge road users and motorists to obey the rules of the road. If you don't obey the rules, you cause accidents and many people die. Our duty is to save lives and we will not tolerate law breakers because they kill our people.

The municipality is realizing that we have less law enforcement officers in the city. We will soon engage in a massive recruitment drive to employ new officers to enforce the law. People must look out for advert on our newspaper.

This will be an opportunity for youth to apply for jobs, so you must apply on our system. Do not bribe.

Let us obey the rules of the road and respect one another.

I thank you.

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