



**THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT IMBIZO 2018 KEY NOTE ADDRESS
BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, DR BONGINKOSI EMMANUEL
NDZIMANDE, MP, HELD AT CALUZA SPORTS COMPLEX, CALUZA,
PIETERMARITZBURG**

23 June 2018

Programme Director

Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Willies Mchunu;

MECs;

Members of the Portfolio Committee of Transport;

Acting Director-General of the Department, Mr. Chris Hlabisa;

Deputy Director-Generals

Chairpersons and CEOs of Public Entities;

Head of Department;

Officials of Government;

The Private Sector;

Members of the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director

I am overcome by emotions as I stand here today as this area reignites great memories of happiness and a touch of nostalgia as it reminds me of the trials and tribulations of my early childhood and my youthful political activism.

We must always be proud of the gains we have achieved through this democratic dispensation and the advances under the African National Congress government. However, we also need to be critical of ourselves with the full knowledge that we have an obligation to continue to serve our people.

As we gather here today it is precisely this spirit of servitude that we should at all times strive to uphold. This year, 2018, we celebrate the Centenaries of two iconic, selfless leaders, that served the country with aplomb, uMama Albertina Sisulu and uTata Nelson Mandela.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Cabinet ratified that Consultative Imbizos should take place under the theme, "Together we move South Africa forward." This year the Albertina Sisulu and Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebrations form a big part of the Imbizo under the sub-theme, "Be the legacy."

During this period the Executive across all three spheres of government, have been directed to engage with communities in various parts of the country. This Imbizo will form part of the celebration activities of both Albertina Sisulu's and Nelson Mandela's birthdays. In the spirit of these

two selfless leaders, we will reinforce engagement with communities from all walks of life, races, backgrounds and socio-economic levels.

Ladies and gentlemen, transport networks are the arteries of the economy, moving people to the workplace and goods to the marketplace. If the transport sector fails, the whole system collapses because goods and services cannot be moved and people cannot get to their places of work to generate economic activity that so vitally contributes to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Cabinet approved the National Road Safety Strategy which is a blue print for South Africa deal with road carnages. The RTMC is now conduction road shows to assist provinces and municipalities to develop road safety implementation plans.

The primary contributory factors in fatal crashes or serious injuries in South Africa includes excessive speed, driving under the influence of alcohol, fatigue, usage of electronic gargets and non-wearing of seatbelts. Motor vehicles, light delivery vehicles and minibuses are the top three vehicle types highly involved in crashes, with pedestrians accounting of 50% of these crashes. This costs the country more than R14billion annually.

In addition to our 365 Road Safety Campaign, with visible policing and tight law enforcement, we continue to seek partnerships of South Africans at large.

[In the top 50 road safety hazardous locations in the country Mlazi, Durban Central, Inanda and Sydenham are leading.](#)

Here in Pietermaritzburg, in 2017, we have seen the number of people dying on our roads increase to 61.5% from 56% in 2016. I am seriously concerned that the single highest number of road fatalities here in Pietermaritzburg is in Plessislaer, and it is overwhelmingly pedestrians.

In fact Plessislaer has the fifth highest number of pedestrian fatalities in the whole country. As government and communities we have to do something about this. Working together with MEC Kaunda we require a concrete plan to deal with this situation.

We therefore need to ensure that the road safety message must reverberate in all sectors of our society where people gather, including in our homes, churches, schools, social clubs and shebeens. We need to make sure that road safety becomes our daily talk.

Government is committed to the implementation of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) throughout the country.

AARTO seeks to effect an efficient road traffic management environment in the country and enhance a culture of compliance through a demerit system.

Given the increase in the number of road crashes and fatalities on our road, we have taken a decision to increase the number of law enforcement officers on public roads.

The Department is advocating that law enforcement be declared an essential service, to ensure availability of traffic officers on a 24/7 schedule on the country's our roads. In order to succeed with the

reduction in the issuance of the fraudulent drivers licences, it is important that driving schools are regulated.

A Task Team has been established to drive the process of incorporating this requirement in the Road Traffic Act that will inform the development of the Regulations.

Ladies and gentlemen, through the Road Accident Fund, we continue to take services to the doorsteps of previously marginalised communities.

This is done through the community outreach programme, 'RAF on the Road'. The programme is an exemplary service delivery project that reached 44 944 beneficiaries and led to the settlement of claims to the value of over R6 million.

The programme has also contributed to RAF originating 23 839 direct claims in 2017. The programme has also led to RAF having its presence in all the Provinces with 101 Hospital Service Centre, 5 Customer Service Centres and 2 RAF Mobi vans (servicing rural areas). Claimants can now access all RAF services as well as lodgement of claims directly.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as a department of transport, we have committed ourselves to radical socio-economic transformation in the transport sector. We are now moving beyond words to practical programmes.

We are using our strategic levers of legislation, regulations, licensing, budget and procurement to drive transformation. This includes

programmes in the public transport, rail, maritime, aviation and in rolling out our road infrastructure.

Today, I am also joined by all the transport entities and provincial departments, particularly the Department of health and home affairs, who are here to share information with the youth about career opportunities in transport. Make good use of the opportunity by ensuring that you visit the stalls and get as much information as you can. This opportunity may indeed change your life.

Also ensure that you check your health status at the Department of Health stall and you also visit the Home Affairs stall.

We are gathered here with the full knowledge that there are numerous challenges still facing the majority of the citizens of this country, this province, this city, and this community of Caluza as well as the surrounding areas.

Our mandate is clear. Sithunyiwe. We are messengers. We have been sent to ensure we listen to the concerns of this community and seek all means to address them, in particular the concerns that revolve around the basic needs of this community. UHulumeni ongazilaleli izikhalo zomphakathi, kusuke kungewona uHulumeni weningi.

The month of June is a significant one in our history as we commemorate the tragic loss of lives across the country as a result of the June 16 Soweto Youth uprisings.

The youth of June 16 participated in a peaceful march against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. They did not go out to destroy property. We are also concerned about the fact that the single largest category of road fatalities is youth. We therefore need programmers to mobilize youth to be part of road safety programmes.

In the spirit of the youth of June 16, I would therefore like to emphasize that we strongly condemn the blockading of roads, torching of private property that occurred on Wednesday, where protesters blockaded the N3 at various points.

We will continue to deal with such criminal acts through the law enforcement agencies, and we will see to it that the culprits are charged and prosecuted.

I request that the organizers of these despicable protest actions use the correct platforms of raising their concerns, that fall within the laws of the country. There is absolutely no need to destroy property even when you have legitimate concerns to raise.

I am extremely concerned about the recent spate of taxi violence, including the shootout at the Masukwana Taxi rank on 01 June 2018, during which a life was senselessly lost.

Earlier in the year there was a taxi drivers strike in the city centre, which turned violent, and which resulted in the looting of local businesses and a government vehicle being torched. I am also aware of the taxi violence that took place Esigodini through a fight over taxi routes. Fortunately,

MEC Kaunda intervened to resolve this particular matter with the culprits being apprehended and peace restored to the area.

We shall adopt the same approach for the violent and unlawful truck protests that have beset us in recent months. Together with the Minister of Police we have vowed to bring to book those who take part in these vile acts.

We will implement a commercially viable Revised Taxi Recapitalization Programme. We will engage with the taxi industry regarding matters that are of concern to both government and the industry, including the issue of subsidies for the sector, vehicle financing, taxi violence, as well as cooperatives supporting the industry.

One of my key priorities will be the implementation of the Rural Transport Strategy. It will increase connectivity between rural and urban areas, and thus increasing accessibility for people residing and working in rural areas. The strategy will also lead to improved transport infrastructure in rural areas.

As I clearly articulated in my Budget Vote Address at the NCOP in recently, during the 2018/2019 financial year, KwaZulu-Natal is one of three Provinces that we will prioritize that depend on Metrorail services, in broadening our rail networks and ensuring we deal decisively with reliability and safety concerns.

Of particular benefit to the Province are the plans to launch the Shosholozha Meyl service from Pietermaritzburg to Kokstad, and the Durban to Cape Town route, via Port Elizabeth.

We will continuously engage the Province and the Municipality regarding the state of our roads in the Province. There are an increased number potholes leading to damage to vehicles and accidents, and thereby hindering road safety.

We note the positive progress with the development led by the Province at the Imbali Crossing and along Edendale Road, which once completed will lead to better traffic flow and public transport.

Whilst the aviation sector remains a beacon of hope and is rated highly in continental and world standards, we will play a significant role in breaking down entry barriers to unlock opportunities for young people in the sector. There are certain professions that are the preserve of a few, on the basis of race, class, and gender. The sector needs to transform so that we see more Black pilots and engineers. We will engage with the Departments of Higher Education, Basic Education, Science and Technology, and Defence.

We need to adjust by learning and moving with time, including for the sector to embrace the Fourth Industrial opportunities and challenges.

Our role is to work tirelessly to transform the sector, and creating economic opportunities remains a key priority. I encourage innovation and innovative solution-based ideas. Transport remains a key sector in ensuring there is transformation of the economy as it opens a corridor of opportunities.

Thank You

