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**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE WEZIWE TIKANA, MEC FOR TRANSPORT,  
SAFETY AND LIAISON DURING THE MEC'S OUTREACH PROGRAMME**

13 March 2015, Cala Reserve

*Executive Mayor and Councillors of the Chris Hani District Municipality  
Mayor and Councillors of the Sakhisizwe Local Municipality  
Traditional Leaders  
Religious Leaders  
Municipal and provincial government officials  
School Principal, educators, parents and learners  
Umhlobo Wenene FM BEE Team  
Our social partners  
Community structures*

Let me first take this opportunity on behalf of the Ministry of Transport, Safety and Liaison to express our sincere gratitude to the leadership of the hosting school for allowing us to come back after an attempt to host this event during the Safety and Security Month (February) in 2015.

Fortunately, March is the Human Rights Month, which is a platform created by the democratic government to remind South African citizens about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for democracy and freedom that has been enjoyed for the last 20 years.

The theme for this year is **“Celebrating the Freedom Charter, Enjoying Equal Human Rights For All”**.

As the Safety and Security Cluster, we have a responsibility to remind our people about our commitments that we have collectively made through the Freedom Charter 60 years ago to ensure that all citizens of this country, both black and white, work together with an understanding of the following:

1. South Africa belongs to all who live in it as a guiding principle of our actions.
2. The People Shall Govern – as we expect our stakeholders and communities to work with us to establish community-based structures to decisively fight crime on our streets, in villages, in our schools etc.

3. All Shall be equal before the law – as we want to discourage our communities from taking law in their own hands, which has been a challenge in the recent past.
4. All shall enjoy equal human rights – to promote respect of each other’s rights as enshrined in our Constitution.
5. The Opening of Doors of Learning and Culture through the provision of an efficient scholar transport service and safe and secure environment conducive for teaching and learning in our schools.

As someone who comes from this community, I can attest to the fact that a lot still needs to be done here to mobilise and organise our people to respond to the people’s charter under the leadership of the Ministry of Transport, Safety and Liaison.

Today we are here as various stakeholders and members of this community to make a pledge for collective responsibility in dealing with our prevailing challenges.

Both departments that I lead are here to share information on how we can work together to engage with young and old people in an effort to:

- Mobilise communities against crime
- Strengthen oversight over SAPS to enhance service delivery
- Promote rural safety
- Promote school safety
- Raise awareness of the important role of transport in the economy
- Invite everyone to be a safety and security ambassador or a road safety ambassador

In the recent past, this area has experienced horrific road accidents that claimed lives, especially those of school children hence we are here today to:

- Launch a direct intervention through the Walking Bus Project.
- Provide space for interaction and participation of all role players in efforts to resolve key road safety challenges.

- Enable our stakeholders and the communities at large to share their experiences and lessons learnt on road safety. We appreciate the positive response from local schools and youth in general, the adults, traditional leaders, the public transport industry and the municipality.
- Provide a positive reception for our ex-convicts, who are here to reconcile and work with us in dealing with our social challenges.

We have successfully piloted the Walking Bus project in Mbizana to assist learners with safety to and from school and crossing on busy and dangerous roads. Five schools situated along R61 with 936 learners and 60 volunteers benefited in this pilot programme.

This is the second area to launch this project in an effort to curb road accidents affecting school children, while walking to school. Through this project, we employ youth, women and people with disabilities to have a source of income. Their role is to monitor school children, when crossing the road.

This forms part of our Road Safety Year Programme, which we launched in Queenstown in October 2014 and will be reviewed in October 2015. It forms part of our broad strategy to mobilise our people to be actively involved in road safety activities.

This will be followed by a campaign to taxi ranks, engagement with street hawkers and pensioners as part of our social mobilization programme in order to get their active support in this campaign.

We expect our Community Road Safety Councils to play an active role working together with our Community Policing Forums and Community Safety Forums.

Our Community Safety and Road Safety Awareness Campaigns must be visible in Shopping Malls, Taxi Ranks, Rest stops, Filling Stations, schools, churches and coupled with community interactions at tribal authorities and general grass roots level as we are doing today.

We must promote safety of learners by conducting Safety Talks during assembly and distribute relevant material to enable our youth to be at the forefront of this social struggle in line with Imvuselelo Campaigning of the ANC.

In the new financial year, we will:

- a) Ensure the integration of Road Safety Education into the school curriculum through Child in Traffic programme focusing on safe places to cross, visibility and safety places to play.
- b) Expand access for our rural learners to drivers' licences.

- c) Curb Stray animal related accidents through the use of reflective belts and community participation.
- d) Heighten Road Safety Education in schools and ensure participation of learners, educators and parents in all cluster and district competitions and campaigns.
- e) Promote Pedestrian Safety and Visibility through Multi- Sectorial Approach in all six districts. This will be implemented in partnership with RAF, Drug and Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Committees.
- f) Embark on Road Safety Promotion and Awareness through Mass Communication, Road Safety Messaging, Billboard and Poster Campaigns.
- g) Install permanent cameras along the identified roads including the notorious N2 and N6.
- h) Strengthen community participation in community safety
- i) Prevent violence in our communities, especially in our schools
- j) Intensify community mobilization programs by creating awareness on:
  - Sexual violence against women and children
  - The effects of substance abuse
  - Improving relations between police and communities
  - Awareness of the functioning of the Criminal Justice System
  - Stolen goods – discourage support of the stolen goods market

Before I conclude my address, I would like to bring to your attention that the Department of Transport has entered into a Service Level Agreement with the Road Accident Fund to simplify the process of road accident fund claims to accident victims.

**In conclusion**, I would like to call upon all our stakeholders and the people of this Province to start making “safety and security everybody’s responsibility.”

We dare not falter and victory is certain.

**I thank you**