

**Speech by KZN Health HoD, Dr Sibongile Zungu on the occasion  
of the launch of the EMRS Festive Period Amplified Operations  
(Alpha Ops)**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Programme Director

District and Local Municipalities Mayors

Councillors

Senior Officials from Government Departments

Officials from Local Municipalities

Municipality and its Fire & Rescue Services

Representatives from the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)

Representatives from South African Police Services (SAPS)

Representatives from South African Military Health Services (SAMHS)

Representatives from Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI)

Representatives from the Business community

Members of the Media

EMS Management and staff

Esteemed Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Day and thank you for gracing this event, which is greatly appreciated.

With the national closure of schools, factories and other industries and the start of the festive season, all major routes throughout KZN experience a remarkable influx of road usage and traffic congestion by holiday makers entering the Province.

Today, we are assembled to announce our preparedness as both Department and Government to deal with the trauma epidemic that gets escalated during the holiday season.

I must indicate that it is with very deep concern that we acknowledge that in South Africa, thousands of people die on the roads and millions sustain permanent debilitating injuries every year more than in any country in the world.

Now, in preparation for the influx of the holiday makers and their departure from the Province after the Holiday season, the Department of Health has put measures in place to ensure that it is adequately prepared for fatalities.

These, we have to admit, are on an increase and more often than not, caused by reckless and inconsiderate driving fuelled by alcohol; drugs and sheer disregard for other road users.

Our Alpha Ops is thus a means to ensure rapid and effective response to all incidents within KZN and its immediate borders, by, strategic placement of ambulances along all major routes. The visitors to our Province are promised a high level of pre-hospital care by skilled and dedicated staff in Advanced Life Support Ambulances. On standby there

will also be 2 Helicopter Emergency Medical Services which are equipped with the highest level of care that will be utilised to respond to scenes where medical or trauma evacuations are required especially where road transport would take long and be a risk to the patient.

## **STRATEGIC POINTS FOR RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT**

### **AMAJUBA DISTRICT**

- N11 - Sunset Rest (Ladysmith)
- N11 - Ingogo SAPS
- R34 - Utrecht (Caltex Garage)
- Botha's Pass
- Communication Centre

### **ETHEKWINI DISTRICT**

- N2/N3 -Spaghetti Junction
- N2 - Gateway
- N3 - Marrianhill Toll Plaza
- N2/M4 - Galleria Mall
- N2 - Umgababa Shell Garage
- Boscombe Terrace

### **ILEMBE DISTRICT**

- N2 - King Shaka International Airport Off Ramp
- N2 - Umvoti Toll
- N2 - Mandeni Toll

### **SISONKE DISTRICT**

- N2/R56 - Kokstad
- R56/R612 - High Flats
- R 617 - Bulwer

### **UGU DISTRICT**

- N2 - Park Rynie
- Hibberdene
- N2 - Port Edward
- N2-R21 - iZingolweni
- Uvongo
- Sawoti SAPS

### **UMGUNGUNDLVU DISTRICT**

- N3 - New England Road
- N3 - Mooi River
- N3 - Tweedie Off Ramp
- N3 - Hilton
- N3 - Camperdown
- R33 – New Hanover

### **UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT**

- **N2** - Mtubatuba / St Lucia
- N2 - Hluhluwe
- N2 - Mkhuze
- N2 - Mbazwana / Sodwana
- Bhambanana
- Phelandaba

### **UMZINYATHI DISTRICT**

- R68/R33 – Intersection Endumeni
- Blood River Road
- R33 – Pomeroy Bambatha Road
- Crossroads Greytown

### **UTHUKELA DISTRICT**

- N11 - Elandslaagte Turnoff
- N3 - Bergville Engine One Stop
- N3 - Shell Ultra City

### **UTHUNGULU DISTRICT**

- N2/R66 - Dokodweni
- R34/R66 - Nkwaleni
- R66/R68 - Melmoth / Babanango
- N2 - Mthunzini Plaza
- N2/R34 - Richards bay / John Ross
- N2 R169 - Nseleni

### **ZULULAND DISTRICT**

- R34/R66 - Ulundi/Vryheid/Melmoth
- R33/R34 - Vryheid / Melmoth
- R66/R69 - Nongoma / Vryheid / Ulundi
- R66/N2 - Pongola /Mkuze/ Nongoma
- R33 - Paulpietersburg/Vryheid

We are thus saying, the Launch of the Amplified Ops in the Province is a means to educate the Public on road safety and also a way of ensuring that high speed advance life Ambulances are made available in strategic areas to provide definitive care to the patient until they are medically stable to be transported to a Health facility.

I must say that we are delighted to join you all present today, in our on-going stand to decrease road carnage and the effects of the accidents on survivors which is saving lives and limbs. The loss of human life is something that could never be replaced. Families are torn apart, breadwinners are rendered helpless and human morale is at its all-time low.

As the Department we will then be running the Alpha Ops from the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 until the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

Together we can make a difference, partnerships with all departments working towards the same goal of saving lives and ensuring a safer environment for all proves to be easier as the burden is shared between the various departments and components of emergency care and rescue, we all speak the same language of saving lives and ensuring optimal care and support is provided to all involved being both the community and visitors of KZN.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey and express my deepest sympathy and condolences to those who had lost loved ones on our roads prior to and at the start of the Festive Season, lets express hope and courage to those that are healing from trauma and injuries as a result of collisions on our Provincial roads.

To all EMS Staff who serve as Angels of Mercy on our roads daily, thank you for all of your dedication, time, skills and commitment through the years. While some people prepare for a period of winding down with the start of festivities, our EMS personnel are just beginning their peak operations period. I acknowledge all EMS Staff that have to leave their loved ones to sustain services greatly required by the community at large and commend their faithfulness to the service of mankind. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed or unacknowledged, thank you once again and keep up the fantastic work.

Let us all work together with combined efforts to create a brighter and happier future. To those travelling to holiday destinations, be aware of your surroundings at all times, ensure that appropriate rest stops are made to reduce driver fatigue and error, maintain safe following distances and courtesy to other road users by staying within the legal speed limits.

Take care all and a Merry Christmas to all celebrating as well as a Prosperous and rested New Year.

I thank you