

Message of support by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the laying of wreath for the 13 pupils who lost their lives at the road carnage at Amajuba

23 July 2013

Hon Mayor of Amajuba District Municipality – Cllr Jabu Khumalo

Hon Mayor of Newcastle Local Municipality – Cllr Afzul Rehman

Hon Mayor of Dannhauser Local Municipality – Cllr Jabu Phakathi

Hon Mayor of Emadlangeni Local Municipality – Cllr Joe Zikhali

US Consul General -

Amakhansela

Abazali abashiywa ngabantwana

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

We are here today not to open the old wounds but to pay tribute to our children who we dearly loved but prematurely taken from us.

We all know that 15 years ago 31 people including 27 school children were demised in a truck and a bus road accident that happened in this area.

Our founding President, **uTata Nelson Mandela** expressed his shock when he learnt of this carnage saying:

'We are deeply saddened that so many young lives, especially children returning from school in the school bus, and many still unidentified should be lost in such a manner..'

We thank the caring Government that saw it fit to build an eternal Monument here, a sacred ground that allows us and the generations to come to have a slab to lay flowers, a corner to cry and say; dear children we love you always.

As we bring them to the fore today, we say Dear Lord; in the Holy Book of **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, you taught us that:

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,*

We thank the Lord for making us understand that we are not in this world for eternity.

On behalf of the KwaZulu Natal Provincial Government under the leadership and guidance of our Hon Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize, again we convey our heartfelt condolences to all the families for the loss of their beloved.

As a mortal being myself, losing a child, I know that no matter how strong, no matter how much comfort I receive, that this is one episode where you are made to feel how limited our time is on this earth.

Our hearts are also with the brothers and sisters of all the departed, people who would have cherished more of their company; play; completion and laughter. Again let us all be steadfast and believe in our Lord because in the Book of **John 14:1-3**, we are reassured:

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Kusengathi imiphefumulo yenu ingathola ukuphumula kanye nenduduzo.

Please accept that it is by grace only and no other human attribute that you as residence of Amajuba District have come to bear this monument in your lives. UNkulunkulu anibusise, aniduduze, anibophe amanxeba ngokuhanjelwa abantwana benu nibathanda.

May you have strength