



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **MEDIA ADDRESS BY MEC PINKY KEKANA DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING FUNCTION**

**For immediate release,**

**Date: 20 October 2008**

Members of the Media,

I would like to welcome you all to this very important function: the 2009 National Driver of the Year Official Opening Function.

This event is one of the major highlights of our activities during this October Transport Month and it is a very important event on the calendar of road safety in general.

The National Driver of the Year Competition is an annual event, which involves professional drivers from all provinces. Our province is the proud host of the 2009 National Driver of the Year Competition

in partnership with the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC).

This competition is part of many initiatives to reduce the carnage on our roads. One of the key objectives of this competition is to prevent crashes involving heavy motor vehicles and to educate professional drivers on issues of Road Safety.

Heavy motor vehicles such as buses contribute massively to an alarming number of fatalities that the country endures every day and it is through this kind of programmes that we can make an impact in improving safety on our roads.

These objectives are in line with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving road traffic fatalities by 2014 as adopted by the Ministers of Transport at the 2006 African Union Conference.

This competition embodies the spirit of cooperation that we spoke about when we launched this October Transport Month at the beginning of the month.

In many respects, this event demonstrates what is possible when the public and stakeholders work in partnership with government towards sustainable mobility.

We value the contribution of our partners especially now with plans at an advanced stage to roll-out the Integrated Rapid Public Transport Networks.

There is not less than 270 companies nationally that support the National Driver of the year competition through participation and sponsorship.

A total of one hundred and twenty-six (126) drivers will take part in this competition. This stage of the competition is the culmination of evaluation and testing and training of heavy vehicle drivers which started at company level in all the nine provinces of South Africa.

Road safety can be the only winner, as we need to refresh the skills of our professional drivers. The driver of the year project also equips participants with skills that benefit employers in terms of reduced fleet operations and maintenance costs and the public through safe driving skills.

Winners on each category gain entry to participate in the international championship to be held next year in the Netherlands.

The fact sheet on the competition I am informed has been circulated.

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