



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

16 July 2007

SEVEN PEOPLE KILLED IN ROAD CRASH IN PORTSHEPSTONE

KwaZulu-Natal Acting MEC for Transport, Safety and Security, Ms Neliswa Nkonyeni, has instructed Department of Transport officials to intensify law enforcement after seven more people were killed in a horrific crash today and to show no mercy to drivers who are contravening traffic laws.

Nkonyeni's call comes in a weekend that saw a series of crashes that resulted in at least ten deaths in the Ladysmith area. Today, seven people were killed in a road crash involving a Traffic vehicle belonging to Hibiscus Coast Municipality, a Fire Tender Truck and a KZT Bus on R102 at Mzimkhulu Bridge near Port Shepstone.

According to initial reports, it is alleged a Fire tender truck and traffic vehicle was responding to an accident involving a truck caring gas cylinders that happened earlier. The fire truck, traffic vehicle collided head on with a bus. Upon the impact six people were killed three fire man, one pedestrian and two passengers from the bus. Four other were critical injured. One later died in hospital and 36 slightly injured and were taken to hospital around Port Shepstone.

"We cannot go on like this. In just 48 hours we have lost almost 17 people in three road crashes and in all these crashes human error was a major contributory factor. I have

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instructed Acting Head of Department Mr. Chris Hlabisa to our 100% compliance strategy to all road offenders.

Nkonyeni has visited accident scene and those injured in hospital and wishes them speedy recovery. Meanwhile SAPS has opened seven case of capable homicide.

For information contact

Mr Chris Hlabisa

Acting Head of Department of Transport

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