



## MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 03 MARCH 2008  
TO: ALL MEDIA  
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS / REPORTERS

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### **HORRIFIC MONDAY ACCIDENTS LEAVES CELE IN SHOCK**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele expressed his deepest shock after ten people were killed in a horrible accident involving a bakkie and two cars at Shongweni, near Marianhill Toll Plaza this morning (03/03/08).

According to the report received it is alleged that the driver of the bakkie that was traveling from Durban to Pietermaritzburg lost control and swerved to the opposite direction and collided with two on-coming vehicles including a VW car. The report also indicates that the third car tried to avoid the VW; however it failed and collided with it. It is further alleged that after the collision the bakkie landed in a ditch leaving its eight occupants instantly killed and two people, a driver and a

passenger from the VW were also killed. Four people were injured and were taken to a nearby hospital.

In a separate accident that occurred at Mtubatuba two teachers and a learner were killed near Zamimpilo Market this morning (03/03/08). It is said that the driver of the Ford Ikon they were traveling in lost control and overturned. It is alleged that two teachers of Mtikini Primary School in Ngwavuma and a ten year old learner were killed in this Ford Ikon which was carrying six teachers and a learner. Three people were left injured and were taken to Ngwelezane Hospital at Empangeni.

Meanwhile, in another horrific head-on accident that also took place this morning (03/03/08) involving a truck and a minibus taxi at P272 between Dundee and Osizweni on Nyanyadu Road, twelve people were left dead and five critically injured. At the time of issuing the statement, all the dead bodies were still trapped in the vehicle.

**“I wish to express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and friends of those who lost their lives in these horrific accidents which took so many lives in such a short period of time. We will continue to enforce the law on our roads, however the public as well as the motorists should also make some progress in ensuring that the law is adhered to at all times to avoid such unfortunate accidents which kills bread-winners and future leaders ,” said Cele.**

ENDS

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