



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA ALERT

DATE : 17 JULY 2008

LADYSMITH CAR CRASH CLAIMS 13 LIVES

KWAZULU-NATAL Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele have expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of 13 victims killed in a gruesome accident that took place in Ladysmith today (17/07/08).

Preliminary reports reveal that a minibus was traveling on the R103 towards Ladysmith when a truck coming from Ladysmith moved towards the oncoming traffic and collided head-on with the minibus. It is alleged that the truck driver fell asleep at the wheel. The vehicle and truck driving behind the minibus also collided with the minibus leaving 13 victims from the mini bus killed on the scene. It is alleged that the deceased were eight females and five males. The minibus driver died on the scene while the truck driver did not sustain any injuries. Five victims were taken to Ladysmith Provincial hospital with three critically injured. SAPS are investigating 13 culpable homicide cases.

"I wish to express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and friends of those who have lost their lives in this horrific accident. We will continue to enforce law on our roads, however the drivers should also make sure that they constantly rest to avoid such gruesome accidents due to fatigue." Cele said.

ENDS.

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