



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 22 JULY 2008
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR/REPORTERS AND PR WIRES

MEC CELE WILL ATTEND A MEMORIAL SERVICE OF 14 VICTIMS KILLED IN LADYSMITH

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele will on Thursday (24/07/08) attend a memorial service of 14 victims killed in a horrific accident that occurred last week Thursday (17/07/08) on the R103 between Ladysmith and Harrismith involving a truck and a mini bus. **The memorial service is scheduled to take place at eNkuthu area in Ladysmith at 10h00.**

Preliminary reports have revealed that a mini bus was travelling on the R103 towards Ladysmith when a truck travelling on the opposite direction lost control and collided head on with the mini bus. Three other vehicles consequently failed to avoid the accident and crashed in, bringing the number of vehicles involved in the accident to five. Upon impact 14 passengers from the minibus taxi were killed instantly of which were nine females and five males. It is alleged that the truck driver fell asleep on the wheel when he was driving. The minibus driver died on the scene while the truck driver fled the scene. Five victims were taken to Ladysmith Provincial hospital with three critically injured.

"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," said Cele.

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