



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

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DATE: 16 December 2008**

**MEC CELE SADDENED BY AN ACCIDENT THAT LEFT ELEVEN PEOPLE DEAD AT THE HIBBERDENE INTERCHANGE NEAR PORTSHEPSTONE**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Cele has registered his sadness due to an accident that left eleven (11) people dead and ten (10) injured at the Hibberdene interchange on the N2 in the early hours of the morning (16/12/08).

It is alleged that the driver of a Roadlink luxury bus that was traveling from Port Shepstone to Durban (North-bound) was trying to overtake an Interlink truck and the bus side-swiped on the truck and also had a tire burst. The bus driver lost control and as result moved to oncoming traffic (South-bound) colliding with a Toyota Camry. All six occupants of the Camry and five from the bus were killed in this accident bringing the total of the deceased to eleven. Eight people were slightly injured and two escaped without any injuries but are receiving trauma counseling. The injured were rushed to the Port Shepstone Provincial Hospital to receive medical attention.

To this effect, Mec Cele will host a media briefing tomorrow (17/12/08) at a venue still to be confirmed which will start at 07h30 a.m. MEC Cele is expected to outline the causes of the accidents that occurred in the past three days and highlight the department's focus in preventing such from happening.

"It would like to send my deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in this gruesome accident that took place today in Hibberdene. It is indeed a sad reality that in less than three days more than thirty (30) people have lost their lives due to road accidents in our province. We cannot overemphasize the importance of obeying the rules of the road and being 100% compliant. We cannot afford to loose lives due to recklessness and that simply means our law enforcement will be beefed up to hit hard on those who are law breakers," said Cele.

**ENDS**

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