



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

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 19 December 2008

MEC CELE TO ATTEND A MASS FUNERAL IN PORT SHEPSTONE.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Cele will attend the funeral of seven people who died in a taxi crash which occurred near Harding on Saturday (13-12-2008). The service will be held at eNkotheni Sports Ground, Port Shepstone and will commence at 10:00am on Sunday (21-12-2008).

The taxi was travelling on Ezingolweni Road when it overturned, killing six people instantly. One person later died at the Port Shepstone Provincial Hospital.

Investigations have revealed that the driver of the taxi was speeding and lost control of the vehicle. It was also discovered that he was unlicensed. He and the owner of the taxi (his father) were arrested and charged with culpable homicide. They were released on R1000 bail each.

"My deepest condolences go to the bereaved families. It is a very sad reality that innocent people have to pay (with their lives) for the arrogance of other people. I wish to urge all public transport owners and drivers to act responsibly on our roads and always remember that they are not just ferrying passengers but people's mothers, fathers, sons and daughters," said Cele.

ENDS

Media Contact: Nonkululeko Mbatha (083 645 6252)

Media Liaison & Public Relations Directorate

Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 Republic of South Africa
Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Republic of South Africa
Tel: (27) (33) 355 8624 Fax: (27) (33) 355 8632
Internet: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za>