



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE

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THREE SCHOOL CHILDREN KILLED ON THE R74 MUDEN ROAD NEAR GREYTOWN

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has expressed his deepest shock and heartfelt condolences to the families of three school children killed in a horrific accident that happened this morning (21/05/09) at about 7h15 along the R74 Muden road at the Lake Merthey turn-off near Greytown.

Preliminary reports have revealed that the driver of the light delivery van carrying school children was travelling from Muden towards Greytown carrying 17 learners on board whose ages ranged between 6-18 years, who were from different schools, namely: Tholinhlanhla Primary, Greytown Primary, Indlovana Primary, Buhlebuyeza High and Greytown Secondary School. It is alleged that a driver was trying to overtake another vehicle when he lost control, hit a telephone pole and overturned the vehicle. Two learners died on scene, one was entrapped, the second one was found underneath the bakkie and the third one later died in hospital. Nine other children sustained serious injuries and were taken to Greytown Provincial Hospital by the ambulance services (EMRS). Police investigation thus far also revealed that the vehicle was suspended and it was unroadworthy. The driver has been charged with three counts of culpable homicide and the investigation is still underway.

"I would like to send my deepest condolences to the families of three children killed in this gruesome accident; however, I would like to further reiterate the fact that transporting school children by bakkie for reward is illegal and unacceptable at all levels. I further urge all parents, schools and public transport operators to work together with the government in addressing this challenge. The law is clear and we need to abide by the law and enforce the law to make sure that people JUST DO RIGHT!" said Cele

ENDS

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