



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 29 APRIL 2009

MEC CELE TO ATTEND A MEMORIAL SERVICE OF FIVE PEOPLE KILLED ON THE N2 NYONI RIVER BRIDGE

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele will attend a Memorial Service of five people killed in gruesome accident involving a Land cruiser and an Astra on Friday (24/03/2009) near the Nyoni off-ramp during speed enforcement. The memorial service will be held at iLembe Hall at KwaMaphumulo Shopping Complex commencing at 10:00am on Thursday (30/04/2009).

Preliminary reports reveal that the incident occurred on the N2 Nyoni River Bridge between Bridge 15 and 16 on the north bound to Empangeni, between two vehicles. Two female traffic officers were conducting speed enforcement, and when one of the RTI officer's, who was in full uniform and wearing a reflective jacket, stopped an Astra which had exceeded the speed limit it was rear-ended by the second vehicle. The Astra was travelling at 150km an hour and was rear-ended by a Land Cruiser driven by a female. The five male passengers in the Astra died at the scene of the accident, while the driver of the Land Cruiser was taken to Ballito Hospital as she suffered minor injuries. A case of culpable homicide has been opened pending the police investigation.

"The dying of innocent people on public roads is becoming a frequent occurrence and this is highly unacceptable. I urge all road users to be extra careful when driving and to keep a safe following distance and to *just do right* at all times. However, my deepest condolences go to the families of the deceased. May their souls rest in peace," said Cele.

ENDS

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