



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

TO ALL MEDIA

DATE 12 MARCH 2009

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

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### **SEVEN KILLED IN A GRUESOME BUS ACCIDENT NEAR UNDERBERG**

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has expressed his deepest shock and condolences to the families of seven victims killed in a gruesome accident along R617, 2km before Underberg this afternoon (12/03/09).

Preliminary reports reveal that the bus was travelling from Mtata (Eastern Cape) to Secunda (Mpumalanga) carrying approximately 36 passengers, when it was approaching the curve, the bus slipped because of the rain in the area. It is alleged that the driver lost control and it went down the embankment killing eight people instantly and other passengers trapped inside. The driver did not sustain any injuries. The cause of the accident is unknown at this stage pending police investigation; however rainy weather conditions and driver error including speed as possible motives cannot be ruled out.

**"I wish to express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and friends of those who have lost their lives in this horrific accident; however we urge all motorists to be extra careful on roads and especially during bad weather to avoid such painful deaths. Necessary measures will be taken if the police investigation**

#### **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/home.htm>

**reveals that the cause of the accident was due to the drivers' negligence. Such accidents can be avoided if the drivers are extra cautious and keeping to the speed limit" said Cele.**

**ENDS**

**Media Contact: Nonkululeko Mbatha**

**083 645 6252**

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