**MEDIA STATEMENT** 

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 07 August 2011

## 10 PEOPLE DIED AFTER A MINIBUS AND A BUS COLLISION IN FRANKLIN

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu has learnt with shock the dearth of nine people who tragically lost their lives in a gruesome accident involving a buss and a mini bus taxi outside Kokstad.

The accident took place on R 617 between Franklin and Swartburg and all nine people including a three year old boy died on the scene.

Those who sustained injuries were transported to Usher memorial in Kokstad and Endedale hospital in PMB.

According to preliminary investigation results, the taxi driver was trying to make a U turn when it was side wiped by the buss which was ferrying people from Johannesburg to Lusikisiki.

Both the mini bus taxi and the bus felt into the river and some people were entrapped.

Mchunu has conveyed his condolences to the families of those who died and wished the survivors a speedy recovery.

"We are saddened that in one day we lost such a high number of people. We convey our condolences to families of those who lost their lives and wish those who are in hospital a speedy recovery. We appeal that all

Internet: http://www.kzntransport.gov.za/home.htm

motorists be cautious to avoid more fatalities especially since we have learnt that the weather is going to be very bad throughout the weekend," Mchunu said.

NB: MEC Mchunu will today at 13h00 meet with the survivors of the accidents and families of the victims.

Ends

For more information contact Kwanele Ncalane on – 072 803 1462 / 0796995755