



MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 27 June 2011
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

UNLICENCED MINOR ARRESTED AFTER PASSENGER DIES

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu has welcomed the arrest of the 14-year old unlicensed driver who allegedly lost control of the vehicle resulting in it overturning and killing a passenger whilst illegally driving.

Mchunu has warned all car owners not to give unlicensed minors vehicles. This comes after a freak accident in Somsuku in Ladysmith on Helpmakaar Road yesterday evening (28 June 2011) between 18:00 and 19:00. It was believed that the minor was driving a Toyota Cressida and was carrying five people, one died and the rest sustained minor injuries.

"Tough action must be taken against owners of vehicles who allow minors to drive. We condemn this kind of behavior and should serve as a warning to all owners as this contributes to the high rate of accidents in the country. One life is one too many. It is a sad reality to hear that a 14 year old will now have to live with a guilty conscience that he has taken someone's life. I appeal to parents not to give unlicensed minors vehicles because they are not qualified to drive. This will prompt us to be more vigilant while enforcing the law on our roads," said Mchunu.

The boy was arrested by the Ekuvukeni Police officers who attended the scene. According to the police the boy was later released and the owner will face charges.

ENDS.

MEDIA CONTACT: Kwanele Ncalane 079 699 5755