



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**  
**UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 31/12/12

**MCHUNU DESCRIBED CALLS FROM HIM TO STEP DOWN FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF SEVEN RTI APPLICANTS AS PREMATURE**

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu described a call made by the IFP for him to step down as premature and irrelevant.

The IFP issued a statement calling on Mchunu and the Acting Head of the Department Transport, Sbusiso Gumbi to resign following the tragic death of seven people during the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) recruitment drive.

Six people died during the fitness test after collapsing in a four kilometer run at Harry Gwala, Pietermaritzburg on the 27 and 28 December 2012. One allegedly committed a suicide.

Immediately after this shocking incident happened, Mchunu announced an investigation and indicated that he has discussed the matter with the Premier to consider forming the commission of inquiry.

Mchunu has also visited survivors in various hospitals to offer government sympathy and assured that the process of recruitment will be reviewed to minimize risk.

**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>

Mchunu appealed to all sectors of society to support the investigation he has started to uncover and rectify any weaknesses in the system.

“To us this is tragedy and we don’t think any blame game will assist. I have started a thorough investigation to get all the facts around this incident, which I will then submit to the Premier for his consideration to take the process forward. It is premature to call for anybody to be penalized for this incident before the investigation is concluded. Only after the investigation can we then determine whether anybody can be blamed, that is what justice demands. As a caring government we maintain our sympathy to all those affected by this process and we are working closely with the families during this period,” said Mchunu.

Mchunu also extended his appreciation to those who have sent messages of sympathy and comfort to the government and the affected families during this difficult period.

“We thank all the people who have sympathized with the families as well as the Department. This helps in situations like this for people of goodwill to handle the situation with care, compassion and understanding,” said Mchunu.

Ends

Contact – Kwanele Ncalane  
072 803 1462/ 0766995755

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