



transport

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COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Sunday, 1 September 2013
ATTENTION: News editors, reporters and PR wires

MEC MCHUNU SADDENED BY TODAY'S TRAGIC DEATH OF YOUNG GIRLS FROM UMKHOSI WOMHLANGA (REED DANCE)

KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has expressed sadness following the tragic death of nine girls in a bus accident that occurred as they returned from the annual reed dance in Nongoma earlier today.

The bus was travelling on the R66 (Nkwalini) between Melmoth and Eshowe when the driver lost control causing the bus to overturn.

Latest reports indicate that nine young girls who had travelled to Nongoma for the reed dance have been confirmed dead thus far. Figures could still rise as there were many other passengers who were still trapped in the bus.

A team of paramedics and other emergency services workers were still on the scene, rescuing the children who were still trapped. Other injured passengers have been taken to Eshowe hospital.

MEC Mchunu has already directed a team of law enforcers to investigate the cause of the accident.

"I have instructed the investigation to assess the cause of the accident, the state of the driver and the roadworthiness of the bus," said Mchunu.

"We are all shocked at the spate of accidents especially in the last three months, which show a dramatic increase in road fatalities. The other worrying trend is that many of these accidents involve the loss of young lives. In this instance, these children had gone to participate in a cultural ceremony that promotes the wellbeing and dignified growth of young girls through to adult life," he said.

"On behalf of the provincial government, I would like to send my deepest condolences to families and friends of the young girls who have lost their lives. I am deeply saddened by this loss of yet more innocent, young lives, in an accident that could have been avoided by strictly adhering to road traffic rules," said Mchunu.

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