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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/ EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES MURDER CHARGE FOR PINETOWN ACCIDENT TRUCK DRIVER

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has welcomed the murder charge laid against the truck driver involved in last Thursday's horrific accident that killed 22 people.

Sanele Goodness May, 23, was formally charged with 22 counts of murder and one count of reckless and negligent driving at the Pinetown Magistrate Court today. His case was remanded for the 18th of September 2013 for the bail hearing.

May was behind the steering wheel of the heavy load truck which was traveling at high speed along M13 and crushed into four minibuses and small cars, instantly killing most of the occupants. Scores of other passengers were injured and taken to various hospitals around Durban. The preliminary investigations show that the truck had faulty brakes.

Mchunu has emphasised that this should set precedence for other similar cases so that motorists are well aware of the dire consequences for their disregard of the rule of law.

"I welcome the decision of the murder charge, instead of culpable homicide. This sets the bar high for any motorist who kills people on the road. Road users should always respect traffic rules or suffer the harshest consequences for reckless behavior on the road," said Mchunu.

"We will also move to tighten our legislation to include provisions that will hold accountable owners of trucks, buses or any vehicles that are involved in accidents due to factors relating to unroadworthiness or poor service maintenance," said Mchunu.

ENDS/

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