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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE: 11 November 2013

ATTENTION : EDITORS/ NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRES

UPDATE ON THE EMPANGENI (HONEY FARM, N2) ACCIDENT

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu will pay a special visit to the Peterson family today, who lost six members in a head-on collision outside eMpangeni yesterday.

Meeting point : UThungulu District Municipality office (Richards Bay)

Time : 11h00

Ends/

Contact: Kwanele Ncalane

EMPANGENI (HONEY FARM, N2) HEAD-ON COLLISION CLAIMS SIX FAMILY MEMBERS

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, has learnt with shock of the tragic death of six family members in a head-on collision on the N2 outside eMpangeni earlier today, 10 November 2013.

According to the preliminary report, a truck had a tyre burst, lost control and collided with an on-coming VW Jetta light passenger car on the N2 in Honey Farm.

All six occupants in the VW Jetta believed to be from one family died on the scene of accident.

MEC Mchunu has assembled a team of experts to investigate circumstances relating to the cause of the fatal accident.

He has expressed concerns on the fact that this accident involved a truck and called on all motorists to drive cautiously on the road.

"Weekends have become notorious for accidents that claim scores of people in the province. Today's accident is as very concerning just as the previous ones. We would like to again urge road users to be extra cautious, ensure their vehicles are roadworthy, and strictly adhere to road traffic rules. On behalf of the government of KwaZulu Natal, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the family of the six victims who died in this accident," said Mchunu.

Mchunu also assured the people of KwaZulu-Natal that his department will continue with intensified law enforcement operations which started during the October Transport Month and will be ramped up as the festive season draws closer.

"Since we re-launched Operation Phezu' kwabo which is our enforcement campaign in October, we have suspended many heavy vehicles (mainly trucks) which were not in a roadworthy condition. We will continue to intensify traffic police visibility while engaging with all stakeholders to own up and prioritise safety on our road," added Mchunu.

ENDS/

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