



transport

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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Wednesday, 6 August 2013
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS, REPORTERS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU SADDENED AND DEEPLY SHOCKED AT YET ANOTHER GRUESOME ACCIDENT

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has expressed his sadness and shock at yet another accident where six people were killed in a tragic bus accident in Pongola, North of KZN.

Reports have revealed that today (6 August 2013) at about 11h00 a bus was travelling from Ntumbane villages when the right front tyre burst and then hit a wall at Mdonini on the N2, about 15 kilometres from Pongola town. Five people died on the scene and injured passengers were taken to Itshelejuba Hospital to receive medical attention. Latest reports have further revealed that one more lives have been lost, making it a total of **six people** who have died.

Mchunu expressed serious concerns at the latest spate of accidents, which threatened to undo the department's inroads in reducing road carnages.

"The government of KwaZulu Natal sends its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in this frightening accident. Such accidents are an indication that more needs to be done to educate road

users about the importance of road safety. This is a third major accident in a space of seven days.”

“On the 30th of July we received reports of an accident that took five lives in Shaka’s Kraal. Subsequently, last Sunday we heard the news of the death of five people who were burnt beyond recognition in Mgababa following a collision that set involved vehicles alight. Again today, we find ourselves confronted by the death of six more people from the bus accident in Pongola, making a total of 16 reported lives lost in seven days,” he explained.

“We are again reiterating our call on all drivers, road users and passengers to remain vigilant and put safety first. Our safety on the road, and elsewhere, is both an individual and collective responsibility that rests with all of us,” concluded Mchunu.

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