



# transport

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## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA  
DATE : 03 NOVEMBER 2013  
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/EDITORS AND PR WIRES

### **EIGHT PEOPLE DIE IN A GRUESOME ACCIDENT ON THE R618**

DURBAN - KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu has expressed his shock following a crash on the R618 between Vryheid and Nongoma in the north of KZN yesterday evening [02/10/2013](#), leaving eight people dead.

Preliminary reports reveal that a Ford Sierra and a Nissan bakkie travelling on the R618 between Vryheid and Nongoma collided head-on leaving seven people dead upon impact.

The eighth person who was entrapped died when emergency rescuers tried to use the Jaws of Life to save her life but passed on before the body could be extracted from the wreckage.

Unconfirmed injuries were rushed to Grey's Hospital in Pietermaritzburg to receive high medical attention.

The deceased, six adults and two youths, are said to be all from Hlobane under the aBaqulusi Local Municipality.

MEC Mchunu has assembled a high level team of experts to conduct a forensic investigation into the cause of this tragic accident.

### MEDIA CONTACTS

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Mchunu has expressed his immense shock at this accident and urged motorists to be vigilant on the road.

**“I am deeply saddened by the loss of lives in such a gruesome manner. We forever urge people to be vigilant and observe the rules of the road but clearly the message is ignored by some road users. The government will not rest with its efforts to fight road carnages through our educational programmes as well as enforcement measures. I want to emphasize with all road users that Road safety starts with each and every one of us. Government can only do so much but the ball stops with each individual. On behalf of the Government of KwaZulu-Natal I would like to send my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased,”** said Mchunu.

Mchunu also vowed that traffic enforcement operations will be intensified as we are now approaching the festive season.

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