



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA  
DATE : MONDAY, 12 MAY 2014  
ATTENTION : EDITORS, NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRES

### **BAKKIE ACCIDENT KILLS FOUR LEARNERS ON R622, MOOI RIVER**

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has called on parents to prioritise the safety of their children following the death of four school learners in an accident on the D-653 Elfmere Farm near Rietflei, Mooi River, earlier this morning (12 May 2014).

Preliminary reports revealed that about 30 learners were traveling in a bakkie when its driver lost control due to suspected brake failure and went into the sewerage dam. Four of the learners were killed on the scene, one is still missing and 25 were taken to Greytown hospital to receive medical attention. Rescue services including the South African Police Service are hard at work searching for the missing learner.

Mchunu has again expressed his great concern at the use of bakkies to transport passengers including school learners, which the department does not recommend because of safety considerations. He has commanded law enforcement services to be extra vigilant and ensure that such accidents as those involving bakkies are prevented from happening. He has also ordered an investigation into the cause of the accident.

**“I’m very concerned about the continued use of bakkies to transport members of the public, especially school learners. We strongly urge parents to work with us to ensure that learners are safe on the road. On behalf of the government, I wish to send our deepest condolences to the families of the deceased children and further pray for the speedy recovery of the missing learner,”** said Mchunu.

He said the government will continue to extend free scholar transport services to more needy communities as part of enabling easy access to transportation and education.

**“The KwaZulu-Natal departments of Transport and Education are currently providing scholar transport to approximately 22 000 learners who attend more than 210 schools and 9 000 bicycles for learners in both rural and urban communities. We will be extending these services to more communities in the current financial year and beyond,”** added Mchunu.

Ends.

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