



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL MEDIA  
DATE Friday, 28 November 2014  
ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR/EDITORS, PR WIRES

#### **MEC WILLIES MCHUNU WELCOMES SENTENCING OF FIELD'S TRUCK DRIVER**

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has welcomed the sentence of eight years and 10 months' imprisonment handed down to truck driver Sanele May who was charged with 31 counts, including 24 cases of culpable homicide.

May's truck crashed onto four minibus taxis and a light motor vehicle at an intersection on Field's Hill in Pinetown (off M-13) last year on September 5th. There were 22 people who died on the scene and two more died later in hospital.

May was initially charged with 31 counts, including driving without legal documents and fraud. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for each of the culpable homicide convictions, with five years suspended. He was also sentenced to one year for violating the immigration laws and four years for each of the traffic and licence violations.

MEC Mchunu said the sentence would send a strong message to those who continued to violate road traffic laws by getting onto our roads without legal driver's licenses and roadworthy vehicles.

**"We are hoping that this sentence will be a strong deterrent to people who want to get on our roads without valid driver's licences and roadworthy vehicles. We want all road users to be people who are properly trained to use the type of vehicles that they drive. I do believe that if this particular driver had been properly trained, he would have been able to act differently and avoid such a horrific accident,"** said Mchunu.

**"This sentence will also bring closure for the families who lost their loved ones. The sentencing of May, must be a reminder to all of us that road safety is indeed our collective responsibility and as we approach the festive season, we must all act cautiously,"** said Mchunu.

Mchunu said, however, that he would also like in the future to see truck owners take full responsibility for such accidents; in particular, if it is found, as in this case, that they employed drivers without legal licenses and that their vehicles were not roadworthy.

**"Truck owners must also face the full might of the law if they fail to operate within the parameters of the law. It is only fair and just. I see no reason why the truck owner was not charged alongside May, and why charges should not be instituted now. We will continue advocating for punitive measures against vehicle owners who violate traffic laws,"** said Mchunu.

ENDS.

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755/ [Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za)

Nathi Sukazi: 081 018 0518/ 082 565 0205/ [Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za)

Office No: 033 355 0517/ 8664

Website: [www.kzntransport.gov.za](http://www.kzntransport.gov.za)

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kzntransport](https://www.facebook.com/kzntransport)