



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 26 MAY 2014
ATTENTION : EDITORS, NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU CONCERNED AT THE SPATE OF FATAL ACCIDENTS IN THE PROVINCE

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has noted with concern the increasing number of people who continue to die on the provincial roads, following this morning's crash near Pinetown that claimed five lives and injured several people.

Preliminary reports revealed that earlier today (at about 4:00 am, 26 May 2014), a Toyota Corolla traveling on Richmond Road, KwaNdengezi, failed to negotiate a bend and collided head-on with an oncoming Isuzu bakkie, which as a result was set alight. The Toyota Corolla reportedly had six occupants aged between 18 and 30 years of which five died on the scene. Two were burnt beyond recognition and three were ejected from the car upon impact. The drivers of both vehicles escaped with injuries and were rushed to RK Khan Hospital to receive medical attention.

Mchunu noted with deep sadness the death of these five youths who had their future ahead of them.

"It is deeply disconcerting and painful to lose people in these accidents, more so because we are losing the lives of young people on whom our future depends. As government, we recommit ourselves to be more visible and take harsher measures to prevent such incidents from occurring. We will also

strengthen our road safety campaigns and welcome partnerships that will assist in encouraging good behaviour on the roads. Furthermore, on behalf of the government of KwaZulu Natal, I would like to send our deepest condolences to the people who lost their loved ones in this accident and wish a speedy recovery to those who are in hospital,” said Mchunu.

In a separate accident on the N3 south bound in Mhlathuzana, two trucks collided and one person died on the scene and two people were taken to hospital. On the same stretch of road, north bound, two more trucks collided and two people sustained injuries.

Mchunu warned truck drivers to also adhere to the road rules to avoid loss of life. He further urged them as well as other motorists driving long distances to take rest stops every two hours as fatigue continued to be a factor in accidents.

Ends.

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