



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : Thursday, 23 March 2014
ATTENTION : News Editors, Editors and PR Wires

MEC MCHUNU MET BEREAVED FAMILIES TO EXTEND GOVERNMENT'S CONDOLENCES IN KOKSTAD

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, today 24/03/2014, met the families of nine people who died in a head-on collision in Kokstad to extend condolences on behalf of the government.

MEC Mchunu also visited the scene of the accident, accompanied by Harry Gwala District Mayor, Cllr. Mluleki Ndobe, and representatives from the Eastern Cape provincial government.

The accident happened last Thursday on the N2, a few kilometres before the South Africa-Lesotho border, when a truck collided on a bakkie, leaving seven people who were occupants of the bakkie dead on the scene. Two people later lost their lives in hospital.

The truck driver survived and has now been transferred to Pietermaritzburg under police guard. He is expected to be charged with nine counts of culpable homicide.

It emerged in a meeting with families today that only eight people have been identified and one body have not been identified.

All deceased were employed by one company and were on their way to work when the accident happened. Addressing families and local community members in the Kokstad community Hall, MEC Mchunu described the recent spate of accidents in the province as shocking and unacceptable.

"We are here with you today because of one driver who deliberately ignored traffic laws and killed innocent people. We are part of the UN declaration to reduce road accidents by 50 percent by 2020, but yet people still disregard traffic laws. I am, however, convinced that we can reduce road fatalities if all road users strictly adhere to the rules of the road," said Mchunu.

Mchunu also said traffic police visibility will be increased during the coming Easter holidays.

Government has also offered to assist families with burial arrangements and other logistical matters.

Ends.

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