



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 23 MAY 2014
ATTENTION : EDITORS, NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU CALLS ON MOTORISTS TO STRICTLY OBSERVE ROAD RULES AS THREE DIE IN GOLELA, NEAR PONGOLA, ACCIDENT

The **MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu**, has called on motorists, especially those ferrying school learners, to strictly observe rules of the road following an accident in Golela, near Pongola, which claimed three lives. Mchunu said everyone's life was important and should be safeguarded, but expressed concern that of the three deceased, two were school learners. Just last week, five learners died following a bakkie accident in Rietflei, near Mooi River.

Preliminary reports revealed that, at about 07h30 today (23 May 2014) on the N2 south bound, a minibus carrying passengers with learners crashed into the right rear of a stationary truck. Three people died on the scene, including two children from Golela Primary School, and 10 passengers were then taken to Itshelejuba Hospital.

“There is a reason to be concerned looking at the rate at which young children perish on the roads while traveling to school. Just last week we said farewell to five school learners from Rietflei, Moor River, who died when the bakkie they were traveling in plunged into a sewerage dam and drowned. This weekend there is a funeral service for seven people, including two staff

members of our department, who died in an accident in Piet Retief, Mpumalanga, on their way home in Pongola, and amongst them were two learners. As government we stand by our decision to look into safer modes of transporting school children and the team that was assembled has started with compiling a needs analysis based on how many children need transport and we are confident that this process will be concluded soon before more lives are lost. On behalf government, I would like to send my condolences to the families and friends of the people who lost their lives in the accident," said Mchunu.

Ends.

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