

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : Thursday, 20 March 2014
ATTENTION : News Editors, Editors and PR Wires

SEVEN LIVES LOST IN GRUESOME KOKSTAD ACCIDENT

KOKSTAD – KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has urged road users to remain vigilant following this morning's N2-Nolangeneni (near Kokstad) accident that claimed seven lives.

According to preliminary reports, the accident resulted from a head-on collision involving a truck and a bakkie – about four kilometres before the border gate of South Africa and Lesotho. It is also reported that the accident happened as the truck tried to avoid an oncoming vehicle when it lost control and hit the bakkie.

At least two people were left in a critical state, and three people escaped with minor injuries. All the deceased were occupants of the bakkie. The injured were taken to Usher Memorial Hospital.

MEC Mchunu has immediately tasked a high level team of experts to conduct a forensic investigation into the real cause of this tragic accident.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of lives in such a gruesome manner. I reiterate our call for all road users to remain vigilant and patient as well as adhere to road traffic rules. We will only win the war against road carnages when we start to realise that the responsibility to save the lives is for all of us as road users. Going into the Easter season, we will continue to escalate our law enforcement programmes. On behalf of the provincial government, I would like to send my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and wish those in hospital a speedy recovery," said Mchunu.

Ends.

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