



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA ADVISORY

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2014  
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS / EDITORS AND PR WIRE

### **MEC MCHUNU TO ATTEND THE MASS FUNERAL OF PEOPLE KILLED AT EZAKHENI, LADYSMITH**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, will attend the funeral of six people killed at two horrific incidents in eZakheni, Ladysmith on Saturday (18 October 2014).

In total, 15 people were killed in two separate incidents in eZakheni, Ladysmith last weekend (Saturday, 11 October 2014). The first incident happened on Pieters Road when three vehicles, a Mercedes Benz, a red Toyota mini-bus and a white Mercedes Benz articulated truck got involved in a road accident. A truck was traveling towards Ladysmith while the Mercedes Benz and minibus were proceeding towards Colenso.

The minibus was travelling just behind the Mercedes Benz. As the Mercedes Benz passed a taxi rank, shots were fired from a vehicle driven by unidentified males.

The passengers and driver of the Mercedes Benz were shot at, leaving the vehicle with 38 bullet holes. One passenger was killed on the scene and four others sustained gunshot wounds and were taken to the hospital.

The driver of the minibus, seeing that the Mercedes Benz was being shot at, apparently panicked and overtook the Mercedes Benz, getting straight into the path of the on-coming truck. On the other end, the driver of the truck tried to swerve off the road but was unsuccessful and collided with the minibus, which left five people (four adults and a minor) dead on the scene. One adult female died whilst in transit to the hospital. Another three adults died in hospital later – taking the total of the deceased to ten – nine from the accident and one from the shooting.

In the second incident, which occurred almost 30 minutes after the first shooting-road crash incident, another shooting happened in Eringini at D-Section in eZakheni. It is alleged that as yet unidentified men in a Toyota Avanza opened fire, attacking unsuspecting people at a car wash and killing five males on the scene. Bullets also hit a nearby house.

The families of six (6) of the fifteen (15) deceased have agreed to hold a mass funeral and have been working with the department towards holding a successful burial.

Mchunu visited eZakheni this week and held meetings with the SAPS, local leadership and families of the deceased in an attempt to unravel the cause of the killings. Further meetings will be held after the funeral. Mchunu will be accompanied by senior departmental officials,

and religious leaders and join families of the deceased and the community of eZakheni at the funeral tomorrow.

He is also expected to hold another meeting on Sunday to launch and strengthen crime fighting structures in Ladysmith.

The full details of the funeral are as follows:

**Date: 18 October 2014**  
**Venue: Ezakheni Sports Ground, Ezakheni (E –Section)**  
**Time: 09H00 am**

All Media is invited.

**Media contacts:**

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