



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: 11 November 2014

MEC MCHUNU PAINED BY THE DEATH OF THREE LEARNERS IN A TRUCK ACCIDENT IN JOZINI

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has learnt with disappointment and pain the news of the death of three pupils in a road accident involving a truck at Mjindi farm, outside Jozini, far north of the province.

A total of three learners from Gugulesizwe high school died - two on the scene and the other later in hospital - when a truck overturned in rainy weather while driving on a gravel road. There were six learners who sustained critical injuries and were taken to Bethesda hospital.

It is alleged that the truck (Mitsubishi tipper) was being driven by an underage and unlicensed male school learner, who also sustained serious injuries upon impact.

The owner of the truck, apparently a relative to the young, unlicensed driver, has since disappeared and the police have launched a manhunt.

MEC Mchunu this evening (11 November 2014, Tuesday) expressed utter disgust at this tragic accident, saying this was yet another case of avoidable loss of precious lives.

"If allegations that the truck was driven by an underage school boy are anything to go by, this is a serious shocking case of recklessness and total disregard of law by the owner of the truck. This conduct should be strongly condemned and the police must speedily apprehend the owner of the truck so they can take full responsibility for the tragedy. In this regard, we expect the law to take its full course and that a detailed investigation, which will ensue immediately, will provide more facts into this tragic accident," said Mchunu.

He added that given the fact the school learners are currently writing exams, their safety should be paramount to all responsible citizens of KwaZulu-Natal.

Mchunu also sent his deepest condolences to all the affected families and wished a speedy recovery to all the learners who were hospitalised.

Ends.

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