



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION: EDITORS and NEWS EDITORS

MEC MCHUNU APPEALS TO MOTORISTS TO BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF FIVE PEOPLE IN PHONGOLO HEAD-ON COLLISION

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu has urged motorists to be extra cautious on the road following the death of five people in Phongolo last night.

According to the preliminary report by the Department of Transport's Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI), a BMW collided head-on with a breakdown-vehicle on the N2, in Mlogo, outside Phongolo.

All five occupants inside the BMW were killed when it caught fire, while two other occupants from the breakdown-vehicle sustained minor injuries and were taken to a local hospital.

Forensic investigators have since been dispatched to conduct a thorough assessment of all the possible causes of this fatal accident.

MEC Mchunu, today (13 December 2015) called on motorists to be extra careful, saying the decrease in road crashes and fatalities this festive season can only be achieved only if all road users take the issue of safety and compliance seriously.

"This is yet another painful accident where five people have been killed in such a gruesome manner. We suspect strongly that one of the drivers committed a serious violation which resulted into this tragedy. Police are investigating allegations of excessive speeding, drinking and driving and other violations. We would like to send our deepest condolences to all the affected families," said MEC Mchunu.

Mchunu last week launched the provincial safety plan where he announced that more than 26000 personnel from various enforcement structures will be deployed to proactively apply maximum law enforcement in the province.

"Since the launch, a lot of progress is being made every day. A driver was arrested in Durban south ferrying 38 passengers in a minibus taxi, which is certified to carry only 16 passengers. The fact that the driver was denied bail shows the seriousness in which our courts are taking traffic violations. As part of our integrated law enforcement operations, in uMhlathuze alone, this weekend 24 people were arrested for drinking and driving. We appeal to all road users to be extra cautious on the road," said Mchunu.

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