



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2015  
ATTENTION: EDITORS, NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRES

#### **GOVERNMENT PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SIX VICTIMS OF HORRIFIC LADYSMITH ACCIDENT**

The Acting MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, who is also MEC for Health, Dr. Sibongiseni Dhlomo, today expressed government's message of condolences and support to the families of the six people who died in the horrific accident that happened at Driefontein turn-off, near Ladysmith, on the N11 on Wednesday morning.

All six deceased were traveling in an overloaded (seven occupants) grey Toyota Cressida that was travelling from Burford to Ladysmith and collided head-on with an Isuzu rigid truck. There were six people who died on the scene, and were all from the Cressida, with one survivor who had both her arms fractured and has since undergone surgery at the Ladysmith Provincial Hospital. The truck from Newcastle had three occupants who all survived with one passenger sustaining minor injuries. The cause of the accident is yet to be determined pending final investigation. The Cressida was driven by a learner driver while the truck's driver has a valid driver's licence.

MEC Dhlomo, accompanied by EMnambithi Local Municipality mayor, Cllr. Vincent Madlala, other councillors, officials from departments of Transport, Health and the Road Accident Fund, said government would provide the necessary support for funeral arrangements to affected families.

The deceased are:

1. Lethiwe Precious Mchunu, 29
2. Nokuthula Membry Mchunu, 33
3. Mlungisi Phineas Khumalo, 39
4. Fikile Elsie Shabalala, 55
5. Bongani Emmanuel Hlongwane (Driver), 38
6. Mndeni Adoration Dube, 23

**"We are still overwhelmed with shock from the accident, but as a caring government we must render all the support for funeral arrangements, including provision of food, coffins and counselling to the families in**

**need. Furthermore, we wish restate our strong view that it is extremely important to obey all the rules of the road and for all road users, especially the drivers, to be extra vigilant at all times. Individually and collectively we must put a stop to these socially and economically taxing road carnages, and save people's lives,"** said MEC Dhlomo.

The mass funeral will be held as follows:

Date: Sunday, 9 August 2015

Venue: Burford Sports Ground (off Driefontein route)

Time: 10:00 am

Members of the media are invited.

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