



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : Monday, 17 August 2015
ATTENTION : Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

HORRIFIC ACCIDENT CLAIMS 15 LIVES NEAR BALLITO

The KwaZulu Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has expressed his serious shock after learning of a horrific accident that has claimed the lives of 15 people on Shaka's head bridge, near Ballito, on the N2 this early evening.

Initial reports indicate that the driver of the minibus taxi lost control, hit the guard-rail and landed on the railway line, resulting in a crash with a train. There were 14 people who were confirmed dead on the scene whilst five were left critically injured - one of whom has since passed on in Stanger hospital. The other four remain critical in hospital.

Emergency services were on scene to assist the injured and clear the scene for normal traffic flow. Forensic experts have been dispatched to further investigate the real cause of this accident.

MEC Mchunu has expressed sadness and concerns on the growing spate of accidents that continue to take people's lives on our roads due to factors including negligence and failure to strictly adhere to road traffic rules by many drivers.

"This is another devastating accident that has claimed the lives of 15 people this early evening near Ballito. This accident follows two recent accidents that have claimed a total of 14 lives in Bulwer (8) last month and in Ladysmith (6) two weeks ago. Most often, many of these accidents could have been avoided if drivers strictly adhered to the rules of the road. Having said this, we continue to call on all road users to realise the devastating effect of these accidents on affected families, communities and the country's economy. We further make the appeal for all of us to take individual and collective action and responsibility to save lives. On behalf of government, I would like to send our deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and wish the injured a speedy recovery," said MEC Mchunu.

Ends.

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 072- 803 1462/ 079- 699 5755/ Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi 081 018 0518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport

