



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA ADVISORY

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HORRIFIC IMBALI, PMB ACCIDENT CLAIMS LIVES OF SIX SCHOOL LEARNERS

Pietermaritzburg - The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has expressed his dismay about the horrific accident that claimed the lives of six school learners at Imbali Township this afternoon.

Preliminary reports indicate that the accident happened when a bakkie carrying a reported 34 school learners from Fezokuhle Primary, a nearby school at Imbali Unit 18, lost control and flew onto the roof of a house near a bottle store building. There were six learners who died on the scene. Furthermore, seven learners were critically injured while nine sustained minor injuries and were taken to various hospitals around Pietermaritzburg for medical care.

MEC Mchunu is deeply saddened by this accident.

"This is a critical period in the year to be learning about this gruesome accident. It is extreme unfortunate that we have to learn of yet another loss of young lives in a bakkie accident. This is despite our repeated calls for all stakeholders to take collective responsibility for road safety by, among others, ensuring that bakkies are used for what they are made for, which include work, and not to ferry people," he said.

"How does it come about that a bakkie carries 34 people? This is not an overload but a recipe for disaster. The department will be sending a team of experts to investigate the cause of this accident. On behalf of the government of KwaZulu-Natal, we wish to extend our deepest condolences to the affected families and fellow learners of those who lost their lives in this horrific accident," said Mchunu.

Ends.

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