



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: Monday 11 July 2016  
ATTENTION: EDITORS and NEWS EDITORS

#### **MEC KAUNDA DECRIES THE DEATH OF 11 PEOPLE IN A BAKKIE ACCIDENT IN HARDING**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, had decried the death of eleven (11) people in a horrific bakkie accident in Harding, on the South Coast of the province.

According to a police report, a bakkie (Isuzu) driver lost control and overturned on road D1079 in KwaMbotho.

It is believed that the bakkie was transporting congregants of the 12<sup>th</sup> Apostolic Church when the accident occurred. All eleven deceased (10 females and 1 male) died on the scene and several sustained critical injuries and were taken to the nearest hospital.

An investigation has been launched into the possible cause of the accident, including assessing if the bakkie was overloaded and to check if it was roadworthy.

MEC Kaunda has described this accident as a serious tragedy, saying that more interventions were needed to maximise enforcement in rural communities.

**“We wish to send our deepest condolences to all the affected families and to the 12<sup>th</sup> Apostolic Church. We have directed our teams to conduct a thorough investigation, including checking if the vehicle was overloaded. We are concerned at the scourge of road crashes and fatalities. We will do all we can to play our part as government, but we also urge our people to take collective responsibility in ensuring the safety of all on our road,”** said Kaunda.

MEC Kaunda together with the leadership of Ugu District Municipality will visit the scene of the accident and meet the victim's families today.

**Details for the MEC's visit:**

**Date:** 11 July 2016  
**Venue:** Ubuhlebezwe Council Chamber  
**Time:** 10h00

Media are invited to attend.

Ends.

**Media contacts:**

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