



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: 30 October 2016  
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

**MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION AFTER A PASSENGER ALLEGEDLY  
ATTACKED A TAXI DRIVER RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF FOUR PEOPLE ON THE N2  
NEAR RICHARDS BAY**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has directed law enforcement agencies to investigate the cause of the taxi-truck crash, which resulted in the death of four people in Nseleni, outside Richards Bay this Sunday morning.

Preliminary reports indicate that a passenger who is a psychiatric patient allegedly attacked the driver of the taxi while in motion, thereby distracting him and leading to the taxi crashing onto a truck on the N2 between Empangeni to Nseleni.

There were four people who died on the scene while five sustained critical injuries and six minor injuries were taken to Ngwelezane and Richards Bay hospitals.

It is alleged that the passenger grabbed the driver's throat, causing him to lose control of the vehicle lost control and collided with a truck which was travelling on the slow line. The truck was from Mtubatuba to Durban.

MEC Kaunda reacted with disbelief, saying a thorough investigation must be urgently conducted on the circumstances that resulted to this fatal accident.

**"We have assigned law enforcement agencies to work on the investigation to uncover the cause of the accident. We have received unconfirmed report that one of the passengers attacked the driver, which if true, is very unfortunate. We wish to send our heartfelt condolences to all the affected families, we are with them during this difficult period,"** said Kaunda.

Kaunda further expressed sadness that the accident happened as the province was about to conclude the October Transport Month tomorrow (Monday, 31 October 2016).

On Thursday, Kaunda tabled an Executive Statement at the Legislature Sitting in Dannhauser, reflecting on achievements and progress of the 2016 October Transport Month. He noted an improvement in the reduction of fatal crashes, albeit marginal, and indicated that more work still needs to be done to end the carnage on our roads.

**“During the month of October, our multi-disciplinary law enforcement teams issued more than 228 charges for various road traffic infringements, including drinking and driving, high speed, un-roadworthy vehicles, driving without licenses and for driving unlicensed vehicles. The law enforcement teams will maintain high visibility throughout the festive season and beyond,”** said Kaunda.

Kaunda will in the next few weeks meet with enforcement agencies to discuss the sustainability of visible enforcement building up to the festive season and plans to focus on crash hot spots, including sustaining visibility in strategic areas during weekends and in overnight operations.

ENDS.

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