

transport

Department: Transport **Province of KwaZulu-Natal**

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: DATE: ATTENTION: ALL MEDIA Tuesday, 19 January 2016 EDITORS and NEWS EDITORS

FIVE PERISH ON THE ROAD INCLUDING CHILDREN ON THEIR WAY TO SCHOOL

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has bemoaned the death in a car crash of five including three school children earlier this morning while traveling to school in Dundee.

It is alleged that today (19 January 2016) at about 07h45 a VW Polo, which was carrying three school children collided head-on with a Toyota Rav4 while the driver of the VW Polo was trying to overtake. All five occupants in the VW polo died on the scene, including three school children between the ages of 15 and 17.

MEC Mchunu said this was one avoidable accident, and that people had to lose lives was very saddening.

"I still remain firm in saying that all accidents are avoidable, if all road users get the message that strictly respecting road traffic rules is a requirement for safety, not an option. We have just started the new academic year and for the parents, families and friends, to be experiencing such a devastating loss is simply too much to handle."

"At this moment the forensics team is still investigating this matter so that we know the facts surrounding this accident. I would like to also remind drivers who ferry people to work or children to school to be extra cautious on the road and to commit themselves to be diligent drivers and road safety ambassadors by ensuring that they respect road rules at all times to save lives. On behalf of the government, I wish to send our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the deceased," said Mchunu.

Ends.

Media contacts: Kwanele Ncalane: 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755/ <u>Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za</u> Nathi Sukazi 081 018 0518/ <u>Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za</u> Website: <u>www.kzntransport.gov.za</u> Twitter: @KZNTransport Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/kzntransport</u>