MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: SUNDAY, 17 JANUARY 2016
ATTENTION: EDITORS and NEWS EDITORS

MEC MCHUNU SENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF MARITZBURG UNITED PLAYER AND JOURNALIST KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has learnt wish shock and dismay of the death of Pietermaritzburg United star midfield-cum-striker, Mondli Cele, who tragically died in an accident early this morning.

Cele, together with an SABC Sport Reporter, who was also an occupant of the vehicle, died on the scene, while two other occupants sustained injuries, when the car they were driving in was involved in a crash.

The accident happened a few hours after Cele scored an opening goal in a match between Maritzburg United and Orlando Pirates last night.

Police investigation's preliminary report indicates that a Nissan Almera veered off the road and capsized, landing in the nearby river.

This horrendous accident happened as the province of KwaZulu-Natal was noting a decline in road fatalities, having recorded a decrease of 2% over the Festive Season period.

MEC Mchunu described the accident as a sad reminder that safety on the road is a collective responsibility. "We wish to convey our deepest condolences to the families, Maritzburg United, the SABC and the football lovers for this tragic loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families during this difficult period. This accident happens as the province was noting improvements, albeit marginal, seen in the decline of road fatalities.

"We will continue to work hard in ensuring a sustained downward trend in road crashes and fatalities as part of achieving the United Nation's goal of halving accidents by 50% come 2020," said Mchunu.

Ends.

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