



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA ADVISORY

27 June 2016

MEC Kaunda directs forensic investigation following the death of six people, including an infant on the N2 near Umkhuze

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, has ordered a forensic investigation into the death of six people, including an infant in a horrific accident in Mkhuze.

According to the report by the Department of Transport's Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI), a bakkie collided head-on with truck on the N2 in Baobab Intersection, a few kilometres away from Mkhuze.

The report reveals that one driver failed to stop at the intersection, which resulted in the vehicles colliding head-on.

All the six deceased were occupants in a bakkie, which is believed to be from Jozini area, and one occupant sustained serious injuries and is getting maximum care at the hospital.

Occupants in the truck sustained minor injuries and were treated and discharged on scene. The accident happened a few kilometres away from N2 Jozini off-ramp, where MEC Kaunda conducted a multi-disciplinary roadblock on Friday.

Today, MEC Kaunda expressed shock and sadness at this tragic accident, calling on all motorists to be extra vigilant on the road.

"We are saddened by this gruesome accident. The death of six people, including a less than a year old infant is serious and devastating. Even worse, is the fact that on Friday we were part of a multi-disciplinary road block a few kilometres from the scene. The roadblock was targeting school holidays, but we were also surprised by the discovery of many vehicles with defects and unlicensed vehicles."

"We will intensify our efforts on the N2 and the northern areas of the province to ensure that such a painful accident do not occur again. We have directed that a forensic investigation be conducted into all the possible causes of the accident. This accident is a sad reminder that road safety is our collective responsibility. On behalf of the government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal, we wish to send our deepest condolences to all the affected families and relatives. Our hearts and prayers are with them," said MEC Kaunda.

MEC Kaunda has assigned a team from the Department's Road Safety Unit to work with local authorities to get full details of the accident, including locating the affected families.

Last week, during the roadblock, MEC Kaunda briefed the enforcement team that government is investing resources to improve safety on the road and to fight transgressions.

This is in relation to the additional mobile testing vehicles, which has been handed over to the province by the National Department. The mobile testing vehicles will be used mainly in remote parts of the province, including areas such as Jozini and Phongolo.

Ends.

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