



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR

MEC KAUNDA EXPRESSES DISMAY OVER CONTINUED ROAD CARNAGE IN KZN

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has expressed dismay and grave concerns over two fatal crashes that claimed 12 lives in the province yesterday.

Reports from the police indicated that the first accident occurred on the N3 at Van Reenen Pass near Windy Corner. It is alleged that two light motor vehicles collided head-on, leaving five occupants dead on the scene. One victim sustained critical injuries and another one sustained minor injuries and both were taken to Ladysmith Provincial Hospital.

Along R617 near Underberg, a Toyota Tazz lost control and went underneath a truck, killing seven people on the scene. One person sustained critical injuries and was taken to St Apolnaris Hospital for further medical attention. (The death toll has now risen to eight victims)

This afternoon, another fatal crash, which claimed the lives of four people, has occurred on the same stretch of road (R617) between Bulwer and Underberg. It is alleged that the driver of the Hyundai lost control and overturned. All four victims died on the scene.

Kaunda has expressed his concerns over the growing number of fatal crashes on the province's roads and ordered a thorough investigation on both crashes. He has also conveyed his deepest condolences to all the affected families, and wished those who were injured a speedy recovery.

"Just this weekend I had just returned from an emotional mass funeral in KwaMaphumulo where seven lives were lost in one crash. While we are still coming to terms with this crash, we now have to deal with this ordeal where we lost 12 people in two separate crashes. I would like to appeal to all drivers to focus and strictly adhere to road traffic rules and signs to save lives. I have ordered a full investigation on these crashes and a team of investigators is working tirelessly on the two cases. It is unacceptable to lose so many lives on crashes that could be prevented if people adhere to road rules," said Kaunda.

The MEC will visit the families of the deceased in Kilmon near Underberg tomorrow at 9 am. He will also visit the crash scene.

Ends.

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