



## transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: Sunday, 9 July 2017  
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR

#### **MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY MEASURES TO CURB ROAD DEATHS AS MORE THAN TEN PEOPLE LOSE THEIR LIVES ON PROVINCIAL ROADS THIS WEEKEND**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, has called on traffic law enforcement agencies to be extra visible and vigilant on provincial roads during the weekends as more than 10 people were killed in fatal crashes on provincial roads.

Kaunda was reacting after receiving this weekend's road crash reports, which revealed that at least 10 people lost their lives in various road accidents in the province.

A major fatal crash happened on R102 in Phoenix, north of Durban, where two vehicles collided yesterday evening at around 21h45, leaving five people dead on the scene. One critical occupant has since died in hospital this morning.

Also yesterday on the M7, Solomon Mahlangu Drive, south of Durban, a truck collided with three vehicles leaving one occupant dead. In Ladysmith on the N3, two light motor vehicles collided head-on killing two passengers and in Dundee, two light motor vehicles also collided and took the lives of two people.

Kaunda has described the latest deaths as a serious indictment on the behaviour of road users, calling on every road user "to do right by respecting traffic rules and signs even if there was no traffic officer who is watching."

"It is with a deep painful that, especially on weekends we continue to lose a lot of people's lives on our roads. This talks to our personal conduct as road users which can only be avoided by firmly respecting road traffic regulations. While we invest more energy and resources in addressing the scourge of road fatalities, we call on everyone to take responsibility for their safety on the road. We have improved traffic police visibility on weekends, and we appeal to enforcement agencies to go an extra mile in punishing those who disregard the rule of law," said Kaunda.

A team of investigators is already in Phoenix for the reconstruction of the scene. Kaunda has also conveyed, on behalf of the provincial government, words of condolences to all the affected families.

Among the interventions being embarked upon by the provincial Department of Transport is to improve visibility of traffic police, sustain multi-disciplinary operations, forge integration among law enforcement agencies, improve resources to curb lawlessness and strengthen relations with social partners.

On Friday, Kaunda addressed the Road Traffic Management Corporation's (RTMC's) Law Enforcement Review Committee, in Durban, where he called on the full rollout and implementation of the National Road Safety Strategy, which was recently approved by Cabinet, to turn the tide against the increasing scourge of fatalities.

Ends.

**Media contacts:**

Mluleki Mntungwa: 060 974 1140/ 060 651 1138/ [Mluleki.Mntungwa@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Mluleki.Mntungwa@kzntransport.gov.za)

Kwanele Ncalane: 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755/ [Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za)

Nathi Sukazi 081 018 0518/ [Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za)

Website: [www.kzntransport.gov.za](http://www.kzntransport.gov.za)

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kzntransport](https://www.facebook.com/kzntransport)