



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA STATEMENT

Tuesday, 14 October 2017

NQUTHU CRASH TRUCK DRIVER FACES CULPABLE HOMICIDE, DRINKING AND DRIVING CHARGES

The driver of the truck that killed eight (8) people in Nquthu yesterday will face eight charges of culpable homicide. The driver has also been charged for drinking and driving after the police confirmed that his blood tested positive for alcohol.

The crash occurred on Sunday (11 October 2017) afternoon when a truck that was carrying more than 70 people overturned near Nquthu after the driver failed to negotiate a bend in a well-maintained gravel road. It is alleged that the driver tried to run away from the scene but was apprehended by members of the community. As part of the preliminary checks, police found the truck to possess all necessary certifications to be on the road.

The Department, led by the Acting Head of the Department, Ms. Glen Xaba, visited the Nquthu crash scene and inspected the wreckage.

Some officials of the Department remained behind to meet the families of the deceased to help them with plans to ensure that all of the deceased receive a dignified burial.

Another fatal crash occurred on Monday (12 November 2017) along the N3 near the Pavillion Shopping Mall where a driver lost control of the vehicle, which resulted in it flipping over the bridge, leaving five (5) people dead and four injured.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, has urged motorists, passengers and pedestrians to abide by the rules of the road ahead of the festive season.

"It is unfortunate that in one day (Sunday) of the last weekend alone, we lost 13 people through completely avoidable road crashes," said Kaunda.

On behalf of the provincial government, Kaunda has expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased and wished those in hospital a speedy recovery. He has urged the law enforcement agencies to conduct a full investigation on all the crashes and bring those responsible to book.

As the festive season approaches, Kaunda said the department will be all out to create road safety awareness and conduct law enforcement operations focusing on drinking and driving, road worthiness of vehicles, un-licensed drivers and vehicles as well as over-speeding.

Ends.

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