



## transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: Sunday, 18 March 2018  
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR

### **HORRIBLE CRASH CLAIMS NINE (9) LIVES IN LADYSMITH**

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has again called for stringent safety measures following a shocking crash that claimed nine (9) lives in Helpmekaar near Ladysmith this afternoon (18 March 2018).

According to initial reports from traffic police who attended the crash scene, a minibus collided with a bakkie, leaving nine (9) passengers dead upon impact. The crash also left six (6) passengers in a critical state, and four who (4) escaped with minor injuries - they were all transported to Ladysmith Provincial Hospital to receive medical and trauma care. Of the total deceased, six (6) were allegedly travelling in the minibus and the other three from the bakkie.

Kaunda has instructed a team of forensic experts to fast-track investigations into the real cause of this latest crash.

"It is deeply saddening to learn of such a dreadful crash that has claimed the lives of nine (9) people and left others critically injured. Again, this crash could have been avoided if road and traffic rules were observed by the drivers. This calls for more stringent enforcement measures, especially as we are preparing for the upcoming, busy Easter weekend. We are further calling for a more united front from all spheres of society to curb road crashes and fatalities, as well as a change of mindsets and driver patterns on the road. On behalf of the Provincial government of KwaZulu-Natal, we wish to send our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and wish those in hospital a speedy recovery," said Kaunda.

Ends.

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