



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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ATTENTION: EDITORS and NEWS EDITORS

MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR MOTORISTS TO RESPECT ROAD RULES

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has called upon road users in KwaZulu-Natal to respect the rules of the road.

The call follows a fatal crash, which claimed the lives of six people in the Midlands. On Friday, two vehicles collided head-on along the R103 near Midmar Dam in Howick, killing six people on the scene.

Kaunda has expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased and urged the police to speed up investigation to establish what could have caused the crash.

"We would like to urge the people of KwaZulu-Natal particularly drivers to adhere to the rules of the road so that we can save lives," said Kaunda.

The Department has put measures in place to deal with the scourge of road crashes and fatalities in the province. These include:

- Ensure adequate funding and capacity for road safety interventions, including staffing and training;
- Eliminate fraud and corruption at Driver and Learner Testing Centres (DLTCs);
- Improve road safety data systems and research to inform tactical interventions;
- Enhance the use of technology in road safety improvement;
- Eliminate crashes on hazardous routes, which the Department has already identified;
- Strengthen compliance and roadworthiness mechanisms;
- Increase visibility of signage across the provincial road network;
- Improve enforcement effectiveness through increased police visibility;
- improve road user behaviour through an all-year-round communications campaign.

Kaunda said that these interventions will require collective action by all the people of KwaZulu-Natal since road safety is a collective responsibility.

Regarding the incident of taxi violence which took place on Friday in Pietermaritzburg CBD, Kaunda convened a meeting between the feuding taxi associations who committed themselves to stop the violence. He warned them that should the conflicts persist, he will be left with no other alternative except to shut down the routes where the taxi associations operate. The meeting was also attended by the Mayor of Msunduzi and uMngeni Municipalities and the leadership of SANTACO in the region. Kaunda assured members of the community that police will continue to maintain a strong presence in areas where the two associations operate until the situation returns to normal.

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