



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA STATEMENT

07 April, 2018

MEC KAUNDA COMFORTS MOURNERS AS 15 MSINGA CRASH VICTIMS ARE LAID TO REST

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda comforted mourners at a mass funeral of the fifteen (15) Msinga crash victims held in Msinga, accompanied by the Mayor Cllr B Ngcobo and members of the community today (07 April 2018).

This follows a fatal crash that claimed the lives of 15 people including a six month old baby last week. Preliminary investigations by the police revealed that the driver of the minibus taxi, which was travelling from Greytown to Msinga, lost control of the vehicle and went down the embankment, killing 13 people on the scene. Four people sustained severe injuries and were taken to Greytown Hospital. Of the four injured, two died in hospital, bringing the death toll to 15, including the driver and two children.

Addressing over 2000 mourners, Kaunda vowed to clamp down on all illegal public transport operators throughout the province. At a briefing meeting held subsequent to this horrendous crash, Kaunda ordered law enforcement agencies, assisted by municipalities as custodians of ranking facilities to formulate an integrated plan that would deal harshly with the proliferation of un-roadworthy minibus taxis throughout the province. He assured mourners that this plan is being finalized and will be implemented expeditiously. He further urged members of the public to resist being transported in un-roadworthy vehicles that are a death trap.

In clamping down on the illegal operators who also pose a threat to the peace and stability in the taxi operations, Kaunda has ordered the Inter Provincial Technical Task Team (IPTTT) which deals with all illegal moving violations within provincial and cross-border corridors to tighten enforcement in averting illegal licensing of vehicles. He further ordered the team to probe all the licensing stations that are issuing these illegal operating documents.

Kaunda said that the crash was a blow to the province's effort to fight the scourge of road crashes and fatalities.

"It is disheartening to stand in front of so many coffins and speak of road safety when there are still people who disregard the lives of others. This was just a deliberate act of disobedience to the

rules of the road. We will advocate strongly for the owner of this vehicle to face the full might of the law. “He consciously went through all the illegal channels to have his vehicle licensed and he deliberately ordered for it to operate illegally moreover in an un-roadworthy state”, said Kaunda

Kaunda further committed his department to close working relations with the South Africa National Taxi Council (SANTACO) in bringing dignity to this lucrative business by ensuring that it is properly regulated.

Ends.

Media contacts:

Mluleki Mtungwa: 0609741140 mluleki.mtungwa@kzntransport.gov.za

Kwanele Ncalane: 0728031462/ 0796995755/ Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi: 0810180518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: www.twitter.com/@KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport