



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday, 27 August 2017

DEATH OF RTI OFFICER A BLOW TO TRAFFIC FRATERNITY

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda has asked the police to work around the clock to find a truck driver who knocked down a traffic officer, Thokozani Gcinani Cele, while on duty in Estcourt yesterday.

Preliminary reports indicate that yesterday (26 August 2018), Cele who was stationed at Midway in Estcourt and his colleagues were on duty doing a speed arrest. During the operation, a truck failed to stop and knocked him. Cele died instantly and the driver of the truck fled the scene.

A case of hit and run was opened at Ladysmith police station and police are following all possible leads to bring the suspect to book.

Kaunda described the incident a huge blow to the Traffic fraternity and a setback to the department's commitment to save lives on the road.

"This a great loss to the department. The manner in which Cele died was unfortunate as it clearly indicates that the suspect is an irresponsible driver as he failed to stop. Road users must understand that traffic officers are on the road to keep them safe. Kaunda has urged all law enforcement officers to strain every nerve to find the suspect. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident must assist the police with information that could lead to the arrest of the suspect," said Kaunda.

Kaunda who sent his deepest condolences to the family of the deceased has urged all law enforcement agencies in the province to close ranks and save lives of law abiding citizens both on the road and in the community.

He also called upon the police to exercise extreme caution as they execute their duties to protect the lives of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Ends.

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