



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA STATEMENT

Tuesday, 10 December 2019

### **MEC NTULI DISMAYED BY SERIES OF FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING UNDLUNKULU AND HIS NEWLY APPOINTED TECHNICAL ADVISOR**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Ntuli has learnt with great shock and sadness about the car accident involving the wife (Undlunkulu weSilo) of the Zulu King, His Majesty Goodwill Zwelithini yesterday evening (09 December 2019) on the R66 near Ndundulu.

Preliminary reports revealed that the driver of a Nissan Tiida lost control on a right curve and collided head-on with a Mercedes Benz which was carrying Undlunkulu weSilo and three other passengers. The driver of the Nissan Tiida was declared dead on the scene while those who were travelling in the Mercedes Benz escaped with minor injuries and were taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment and trauma care.

MEC Ntuli has expressed his most sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and will visit Undlunkulu weSilo and the other survivors in hospital.

MEC Ntuli also received with shock and sadness the news about the passing of his newly appointed Technical Advisor Mr. Siboniso Buthelezi who tragically lost his life in a motor vehicle accident last night. Circumstances surrounding the fatal crash are still being investigated by forensic experts and further updates will be communicated in due course. MEC Ntuli is expected to visit Mr. Buthelezi's family in KwaCeza near Ulundi later today.

In another separate incident, MEC Ntuli was informed of a horrific crash that left five people burnt beyond recognition on the R34 near Umthonjaneni. Preliminary reports reveal that yesterday (9 December 2019) two vehicles, a Ford Ranger and a Toyota Yaris collided head on, on the R34/66. It is alleged that the driver of the Toyota Yaris who was driving on the opposite carriageway, crashed onto the guardrails on the opposite direction and then veered off the road and collided head on with the Ford Ranger. The Toyota Yaris had four passengers who were all burnt beyond recognition. The Ford Ranger had one passenger who sustained severe injuries and was taken to hospital where he later died, increasing the number of fatalities to five. DNA tests are currently being conducted to identify the deceased and inform their families.

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**“Yesterday’s tragic accidents have left one in a distraught state of mind as lives were lost in circumstances that could have been avoided. We have reached a point where drastic road safety measures must be implemented in order to save lives on our roads. We need to work with communities, government and the private sector to fight this scourge. It is disheartening to receive the news on the passing of Mr Buthelezi who had just started working in my office. It was also shocking to learn of a near death crash involving Undlukulu weSilo. I wish to send my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and wish those in hospital a speedy recovery,”**said Ntuli.

ENDS/

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