

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

17 July 2020

## MEC NTULI CALLS FOR A SPEEDY INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF TWO GIRLS IN A CRASH INVOLVING KWANONGOMA MAYOR'S VEHICLES

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Bheki Ntuli, has directed the department and the police to institute an urgent investigation into a fatal crash involving KwaNongoma Mayor's convoy.

Yesterday evening, MEC Ntuli received a report of a fatal accident on R66, where two girls were run over by a backup car escorting the KwaNongoma Mayor. The incident took place in White City in the late hours of the afternoon.

According to eye witnesses, the vehicle was traveling at an excessive speed, killing the two girls aged 13, who were walking on the side of the road.

This gruesome accident has sparked a community protest in the area, with the community barricading the road demanding that action be taken. MEC Ntuli is already intervening to calm the situation and has deployed police.

Commenting on this incident, MEC Ntuli vowed that tough action should be taken if investigations reveal that the driver was reckless and negligent. Police are investigating cases of culpable homicide and negligent driving.

"There is no one who is above the law and members of the protection service must also adhere to the laws of our country, including the National Road Traffic Act. Those who work with public representatives have a duty to protect the society and need to be extra cautious on the road. Our investigation will probe the allegations of excessive speeding and the driver's condition at the time of the accident because this is a residential area and extra caution ought to have been adhered to. The forensic investigation must be expedited so that the affected families can find closure. Through this accident, the future of the two girls has been shattered and their families have lost future breadwinners and future professionals. The devastating effect of this accident is deeper to the affected families and the community

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of KwaNongoma. On behalf of the provincial government we wish to send our deepest condolences to the families of the two girls," said MEC Ntuli.

MEC Ntuli appealed to all road users to be extra cautious, saying negligent drivers have no place in our roads and traffic police have been directed to beef-up their operations.

MEC Ntuli appealed for calm and assured the community of KwaNongoma that justice will prevail.

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