



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA RELEASE

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KZN PREMIER SIHLE ZIKALALA VISITS IXOPO TO MEET THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF 12 ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIMS

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala has called for a thorough investigation into the horrific crash that claimed 12 lives on the R612 on Thursday, 02 September.

Premier Zikalala said this following a visit to the accident scene earlier today outside Ixopo. The accident involved three trucks, a bakkie and a mini-bus taxi.

The Premier was accompanied by MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni, District Mayor Zamo Nxumalo and Inkosi Chiliza, chairperson of the KZN House of Traditional Leaders.

"A crack team from Gauteng is already on the ground. They are currently combing the scene and examining the infrastructure, the vehicles and the driver behaviour on the day. Having said this, our preliminary information is that this was due mainly to human error," said Premier Zikalala.

"The majority of accidents on our roads are avoidable. In the majority of cases, it is human error and a failure to adhere to the rules of the road which is responsible for the high carnage on our roads," the Premier said.

"On behalf of Provincial government we wish to pay our sincerest condolences to the families of the 12 victims of this accident. We also wish the survivors, who are in hospital, a speedy recovery," said Premier Zikalala.

The majority of the victims are women, who were all travelling in the minibus.

"Our policy dictates that where more than 4 people have died in an accident, government must assist with the burial and related costs. We will also revive the Siyabakhumbula campaign and at the same time tighten our enforcement operations. We must return to the slogan "KwaZulu-Natal, Alufakwa lubuya nesaphulamthetho", which ensures zero tolerance on all our roads," said Premier Zikalala.

ENDS.