



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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NINE PEOPLE LOSE THEIR LIVES AS THE LONG-DISTANCE BUS COACH LOSES CONTROL IN LADYSMITH ON THE N3

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Ms. Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni has learnt with deep sadness about the horrific accident following a bus accident that claimed 09 lives on the N3. According to the police report, the driver of the Eldo Coach bus lost control and the bus veered off the road, killing 9 people instantly and leaving 53 with serious injuries. Those who sustained injuries are receiving urgent medical care and others have been transferred to the nearby health facilities.

Currently the road is closed as paramedics, members of the Road Traffic Inspectorate, South Africa Police Services are busy with the mop-up operation.

Equally, a high-level team of investigators has been dispatched to initiate the investigation into the cause of this tragic and painful incident. Commenting after receiving the news of this tragic accident, MEC Nkonyeni voiced out her concern with public transport being involved in the recent spate of accidents.

"We are absolutely shocked by yet again the loss of innocent human lives. We regard this accident as a tragedy because since we began the October Transport Month campaign, our roads have been relatively stable. We have assigned a team of experienced investigators to thoroughly investigate the cause of this accident. We further appeal to public transport drivers to make sure that they have enough rest before embarking on a trip. The public transport owners equally have a responsibility of making sure that their vehicles are compliant and road worthy. On behalf of the provincial government, we wish to send our heartfelt condolences to all the families who have lost their loved ones," said Nkonyeni.

As part of the 2021 October Transport Month campaign, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is embarking on an intensive road safety and law enforcement campaign to radically achieve the mindset change off all road users. As part of the strategy, there are outcome driven law enforcement operations which are targeted in nature are focusing on all strategic points in the province.

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