



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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BAKKIE DRIVER ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING SEVEN PEOPLE IN IXOPO IN POLICE CUSTODY

A bakkie driver that allegedly responsible for killing seven people over the weekend has been arrested and is due to appear in the iXopo Magistrate Court to face various counts including culpable homicide and negligent driving.

This was revealed today when the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka and the MEC for Social Development, Nonhlanhla Khoza visited the accident scene.

The accident happened on R612 between iXopo and Highflats.

Seven people who were returning from a traditional function died after the driver lost control and the vehicle veered off the road. The accident happened in the late hours of Sunday.

During the briefing, it emerged that the vehicle was speeding excessively and started hitting the guard rail on the opposite bound before losing control. The section of the road where the accident happened has just been rehabilitated and is in a good condition.

MEC Hlomuka together with MEC Khoza proceeded to attend the memorial service, which was organized for the families at the local Soweto Hall in eXopo.

Comforting the mourners, MEC Khoza, committed government to assisting the families with a social relief programme.

"This is tragic and as a carrying government we must work with you families during this difficult time. As the Department we will work with the Department of Transport and municipalities to provide all required support," said MEC Khoza.

MEC Hlomuka, welcomed the arrest of the bakkie driver, saying it will go a long way in ensuring that the rule of law is respected and adhered to.

"The arrest of the driver will assist the investigation by the police. Those responsible for killing people on the road must pay and the criminal justice will deal with them. Such arrest will ensure that people respects the rule of law. Road accidents are a menace to the society, and we all need to play an active role. We are here to comfort the families and to send condolences on behalf of the provincial government," said Hlomuka.

Ends.

Issued by the Department of Transport jointly with the Department of Social Development
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