



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEC HLOMUKA SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF 16 SCHOOL CHILDREN IN A TRUCK/BAKKIE CRASH IN PHONGOLO

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka, has expressed sadness at the horrific accident that has claimed about 16 lives in Phongolo north of KwaZulu-Natal.

According to preliminary reports, a truck collided with a bakkie that was ferrying school children. There were also a few adult occupants as well. It is believed that the vehicles collided head-on resulting in the death of 16 people on the scene. The accident happened on the N2 in eMakhalathini area.

South African Police Services (SAPS), paramedics and members of the Road Traffic Inspectorate are currently at the scene as there are still some entrapments. At this stage the circumstances that resulted to this fatal accident are a subject of investigation.

This accident comes as the province is preparing an intense October Transport Month campaign, which will be characterized by visible law enforcement operations throughout the province.

Commenting on this gruesome accident, MEC Hlomuka called on road users to be responsible and to adhere to the traffic laws.

"We are deeply disturbed by this fatal accident. The death of so many young lives is a serious tragedy. We have sent our forensic team to investigate the cause of this accident. We are calling on responsible road using in the province to end the scourge of crashes and fatalities. The accident happens at a time when as the province we are preparing an aggressive enforcement operation as part of the October Transport Month. During this period, we will be interacting with various transport sector stakeholders and commuters to promote safety on the road. We wish to send our deepest condolences to all the families," said Hlomuka.

MEC Hlomuka will tomorrow (17 September 2022) visit the accident scene and possibly meet with the affected families. The details for the visit will be communicated later today.

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