



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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MEC HLOMUKA WELCOMES THE ARREST OF A TRUCK DRIVER INVOLVED IN THE N2 MARIANHILL FATAL CRASH AND EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES TO THE RAJBANSI FAMILY

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka, welcomes the arrest of a truck driver involved in the horrific crash that killed three people on the N3 in Marianhill yesterday.

The truck driver is detained and will appear in the Pinetown Magistrate court today, where he is facing a number of charges including culpable homicide and negligent driving.

There is currently a multi-disciplinary team from different agencies that is investigating the possible causes of this accident. MEC Hlomuka has further emphasized that the company that owns the truck must be taken to task should it be found that there were some defects in the vehicle.

The run-away truck couldn't stop, drove uncontrollably to cause a pile up of 15 vehicles in a traffic jammed N3. This resulted to the death of three people, with five others sustaining serious injuries.

Among those who died includes the son and daughter in law of a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, Hon Thakur Rajbansi.

MEC Hlomuka has expressed concerns at the alarming accidents involving trucks saying something extra ordinary needs to be done to save the lives of innocent people on the roads.

"We welcome the fact that the driver is going to be facing charges. We also want action to be taken against the truck company as well. This must send a clear message to all truck drivers and all road users that those who are killing people on the roads have no space in our province. In a separate matter the Phongolo N2 truck driver that killed 20 people is also still in custody. This demonstrates that the criminal justice system is serious about issues of traffic violations. We have now directed that an integrated plan be developed to focus on heavy vehicles. This will check driver documentation, roadworthiness of the trucks and other compliance issues. We will also be engaging with the trucking industry to agree on fundamental safety improvement plans, compliance and monitoring of their drivers. We also wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Rajbansi family and wish a speedy recovery to all those who are hospitalized" said MEC Hlomuka.

Hlomuka further alluded to the fact that government is making interventions to curb the scourge of crashes in hotspots areas. This includes interventions on the N3 Pieter Brown with the introduction of safety measures, including technology. The construction period is also shortened from March 2023 to December 2022.

In Phongolo, the Department has already opened a satellite Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) station, deployed personnel and vehicles to improve enforcement.

Ends./

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