



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEC SIPHO HLOMUKA CALLS FOR STRICTER ROAD REGULATIONS AS TAXI DRIVER IS ARRESTED FOR DRINKING AND DRIVING AFTER A FATAL CRASH THAT CLAIMS FIVE LIVES

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Siphon Hlomuka, has called for tighter road regulations following the arrest of a taxi driver that killed five people today (Sunday, 04 September 2022) in Edendale, Pietermaritzburg.

The driver of a minibus taxi lost control of the vehicle on M70, instantly killing five people. Other occupants sustained injuries and were taken to the nearby hospitals.

Upon examination, it was discovered that the minibus driver was under the influence of alcohol and has been detained. He is expected to face charges of culpable homicide, negligent drinking and driving under influence of alcohol.

In a separate accident today in Jozini, a bus carrying people to a wedding overturned killing one person and leaving more than 26 sustaining serious injuries.

The bus was from KwaSkhemelele travelling to Phongolo.

These fatal accidents happen as families in the iXopo bakkie accident that killed seven people last weekend are burying their relatives this weekend. The bakkie driver is also arrested.

MEC Hlomuka called for irresponsible drivers to be punished, saying all these accidents are as a result of their behaviour.

"It is totally disheartening to witness the deaths of so many people on the road. The death of six people in one day is painful. The arrest of a taxi driver who was allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol shows that people have no regard for human life and the rule of law. We hope the arrest of the taxi driver will assist in serving him with a deserving punishment. We call on road users to be responsible and to respect the rule of law. These fatal accidents are avoidable. The rule of law and enforcement agencies need to act tough against such individuals. We also wish to send our deepest condolences to all the affected families who have lost their relatives," said Hlomuka.

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