



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### DIRECTORATE:

Communication

Private Bag X9043, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House, 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Tel: 033 355 8624 Fax: 033 355 8632

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Sunday, 17 July 2022**

### **TWO SEPARATE ACCIDENTS CLAIMS EIGHTEEN (18) LIVES ON KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL ROADS OVER THE WEEKEND**

The Acting MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Jomo Sibiya is distraught by the number of people who have lost their lives in two separate road accidents on Saturday, 16 July 2022.

The first accident that involved three vehicles occurred around 19h00 on the N11 near Mawelawela. As a result, six people lost their lives. Another accident involving four vehicles happened around 19h30 on the R617 between Howick and Mpophomeni.

Preliminary reports suggest that a minibus taxi carrying people who are believed to be relatives and neighbours, travelling from a function in Impendle to Umlazi had stopped on the side of the road after one of its occupants allegedly jumped off the moving minibus taxi and subsequently died. Private security officers who were patrolling around the area notified the police of the incident. Members of the SAPS thereafter arrived at the scene to investigate and redirect traffic.

Whilst the police were still busy with their investigations, passengers from the minibus taxi and private security personals were standing alongside the road. A Toyota bakkie apparently travelling at a very high speed approached from behind and collided into the people standing alongside the road and motor vehicles which were parked there, including the SAPS van, the mini taxi and the private security motor vehicle.

A total of 10 people died at the scene and two people later died in hospital, one of them being a 37-year old police sergeant Sizwe Madondo stationed at Mpophomeni Police Station.

Today, 17 July 2022, MEC Sibiya led a government delegation that visited the scene and met with the bereaved families. MEC Sibiya believes that a lot of accidents occur as a result of human error and called on all road users to be responsible.

"We are deeply saddened by the number of people whose lives have been claimed as result of accidents in a very short period of time within our province. We would like to pass our condolences to the families of the victims of both accidents. We once again want to appeal to motorists to always abide by traffic laws. We have called for the police to thoroughly investigate the circumstances surrounding these accidents. Drivers must respect the traffic rules and work with us and the police to save lives on the road".

The driver of the motor vehicle which collided with all the other stationary motor vehicles has been detained by the police for investigation.

ENDS./