



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIRECTORATE:

Private Bag X9043, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200

Communication

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

Tel: 033 355 8624

Fax: 033 355 8632

Media Advisory

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MEC HLOMUKA DECRIES FATAL CRASHES THAT KILLED 14 PEOPLE IN AMAJUBA DISTRICT

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka has decried this past weekend's major accidents, which claimed more than fourteen (14) lives in Amajuba District.

The first incident occurred in Mbathane area in eMadlangeni, where 54 people were travelling in a truck between Groutvlei and Ngomane.

All the occupants were believed to be attending a wedding in the area when the truck allegedly ran out of brakes and rolled over, throwing all of the passengers out.

Six (6) people died on the scene, and two (2) later succumbed to injuries and died in hospital.

Police are currently investigating eight (8) counts of culpable homicide, reckless and negligent driving.

In another separate incident that happened in Dannhauser, it is alleged that a minibus taxi ferrying traditional healers lost control and overturned. Six (6) people lost their lives and scores sustained injuries and were taken to eMadadeni Hospital.

Commenting on these fatal crashes, MEC Hlomuka pleaded strongly with motorists to respect traffic regulations and drive responsibly on the road.

"These two accidents are totally unacceptable and clearly demonstrate negligence on the part of drivers and vehicle owners. Whilst we understand the plight of our people in farming areas, it is however disturbing that fifty-four (54) people can be loaded in a truck. This may result in fateful accidents and loss of human life. Equally, in the Dannhauser incident there is a clear sign of traffic violation. The investigation in both these accidents is underway. As the Provincial Government we wish to extend our deepest condolences to all the affected families who lost their loved ones," said Hlomuka.

Hlomuka further expressed concerns that the increasing rate of accidents is being experienced at a time when the province is launching the October Transport Month campaign.

Central to the campaign is massive law enforcement operations which will integrate all law enforcement agencies.

These operations will be targeting strategic roads in the province and the attention will be given to public transport and heavy motor vehicles.

ENDS.