



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Media Advisory

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TRAGIC ACCIDENT CLAIMS LIFE OF ROAD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND BREAKDOWN OPERATOR

The KwaZulu Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka has expressed his deepest condolences following a tragic accident that happened during the early hours of Saturday, 02 September 2023 on the N3, Pietermaritzburg.

The accident also claimed the life of a breakdown operator, who, together with the traffic police, were trying to assist on the accident scene.

The incident happened when a joint emergency response team was responding to an accident, providing crucial pre-warning and assistance in a crash scene.

Unfortunately, circumstances took a devastating turn when the brakes of the first truck failed, causing the driver to lose control, and the vehicle overturned.

Tragically, during this unfolding chaos, our road traffic enforcement officer and the breakdown operator, who were selflessly working to ensure the safety of others, were struck by a second truck.

This secondary collision further exacerbated the situation as it collided with an overturned tanker. The driver of the second truck fled the scene.

As a result, N3 was forced to close.

Commenting in the wake of these devastating news, MEC Hlomuka, called on motorists to be extra cautious and work with emergency services in accident scenes.

"Motorists must work and cooperate with emergency services in accident scenes. We shouldn't have lost such a dedicated traffic officer like Ntshangase and the breakdown operator. Officer Ntshangase was a very dedicated officer who would go beyond the call of duty to save lives on the road. We wish to express our deepest condolences to the Ntshangase family and the family of the breakdown operator," said Hlomuka.

The investigation into the cause of the accident is currently underway.

The Department is hugely affected when one traffic officer is lost. This is particularly so because we are engaged in an effort of beefing up capacity within the enforcement unit and to turn the situation around.

Ends.

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