

Media Statement

To: All Media

Attention: Editors/Reporters

08 August 2023

KWAZULU-NATAL PREMIER DUBE-NCUBE SENDS CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF SIX LEARNERS KILLED IN A BUS ACCIDENT

The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal Nomusa Dube-Ncube on behalf of the Provincial Government sends condolences to the families of six learners who were killed in a bus crash on Tuesday morning.

Five pupils died on the scene on the R618 near Hluhluwe Umfolozi Game Reserve while the sixth died in hospital when the bus they were travelling in overturned. More than 34 others were injured, and they were rushed to Hlabisa Hospital.

The accident victims were learners from Mchitheki Secondary School in Nongoma.

"It is with profound sadness that I convey our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the young learners who tragically lost their lives in this bus accident. Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of these bright young souls whose lives were cut short in such a devastating manner," said Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube.

The Premier added: "In times like these, words feel inadequate in capturing the depth of our sorrow. We stand in solidarity with the affected families, offering our unwavering support during this incredibly difficult period. Our thoughts and prayers are with every one of you as you navigate through this heart-wrenching loss".

The Premier has also welcomed MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Sipho Hlomuka's directive for all relevant law enforcement agencies to speed up investigation into the cause of this accident. "We appreciate the speed with which MEC Hlomuka has moved, to direct that an investigation be initiated. We add our voice to a call for drivers of any kind of vehicle to be patient and vigilant on the road," said the Premier.

Premier Dube-Ncube concluded by expressing the Provincial Government's gratitude to the emergency response teams, medical personnel, and everyone involved in the rescue and support efforts.

Meanwhile the Department of Transport has indicated that working with the Department of Education it will provide necessary assistance to the families, learners and the affected school.

Ends.

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government

For more information contact Head of Provincial Government Communication Bongsi Gwala on 072 793 4757 / Joseph Cubai on 061 421 5853