

MEDIA STATEMENT  
15 November 2016

## **KZN Health MEC mourns the death of a patient in an Ambulance accident**

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has sent condolences to the family of a 24 year patient who demised in an accident when she was being ferried to the Dumbe Community Health Centre late last night.

It has now transpired that a Toyota Land Cruiser Ambulance was dispatched around 22h31 last night from Dumbe EMS Base to the Lunarberg area for an emergency. The 24 year old patient was found to be in labour and thus transported to the Dumbe CHC. Whilst enroute in the heavy mist and rain, the Ambulance came off the road just before the bridge and went down the embankment.

Sadly, the patient demised at the scene of the accident. The paramedics, one, a 33 year old female who was driving and a 33 year old male who was with the patient, sustained injuries and were transported to Dumbe CHC and Vryheid Hospitals, respectively.

We sincerely feel for all the families involved and have already dispatched the District Senior Managers to meet with them. We will also be working with all other Government Departments to give assistance to the bereaved family as per norm in such circumstances,' says MEC Dhlomo.

Sadly, this tragic accident was followed by another one around New Hanover at 5h30 this morning that involved a Planned Patient Transport bus that was transporting patients from UMzinyathi Health District to tertiary hospitals at UMgungundlovu District. Here, the vehicle was badly damaged whilst 14 patients with varying injuries were transported to Greytown; Northdale and Grey's hospitals for attention.

MEC Dhlomo cautions all drivers to be extra careful in the current unpredictable weather patterns saying:

'We plead with our personnel to be very cautious on the road especially now that the Province is experiencing inclement weather conditions with heavy mist accompanying the rains;'

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