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## **KZN deploys high tech to reduce Easter road deaths**

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has announced the deployment of 2 Helicopters with high technology to reinforce efforts to assist in road accidents during the Easter Holidays.

The Helicopters are equipped with Night Vision Goggles and have been reconfigured to undertake night operations. These Night Vision Goggles are specially designed and generally used in military environments. They allow the user better visibility in night conditions and the crew on board is able to see a person standing over 183 metres away on a moonless, cloudy night.

Dhlomo says chances of survival are increased if the accident victim gets assistance timeously:

‘During this Easter Holiday we want to drastically cut deaths to a very minimal. Beside these Helicopters, we have also deployed our Emergency Medical teams to all the accident prone areas like Amajuba Pass; Ndundulu and Kokstad. The rationale here is to provide assistance within that golden hour the accident has happened.’

Dhlomo says the Province is ready to reach out to people in distress and in emergency situations anytime and anywhere.

‘We have also deployed our Rescue vehicles that are equipped with high-tech equipment that have a capacity to remove material or cut metal parts to access the entrapped patient. For big and multiple accident scenes, we have Ambulance buses that are ready to transport patients at once instead of us dispatching 6 or more Ambulances to an accident scene. These Ambulance buses can accommodate four stretchers, two wheelchairs and 35 patients seated on board.’

Dhlomo then praised all the KZN Emergency Medical Rescue personnel who agreed to forgo their vacation leave in-order to be at service for their country men and women during this holiday season.

People in distress are requested to call the Provincial Health Operations Centre (PHOC) at 0800 0000 5133.

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