MEDIA RELEASE

News Editors/All Media Houses

Date issued: Wednesday, 05 March 2025

Traffic Update

FREE STATE GOVERNMENT REELS IN SHOCK AS N6 FATAL ACCIDENT CLAIMS 10 LIVES AND INJURES 27

Free State, South Africa – The Free State Government is mourning the tragic loss of life following a devastating accident on the N6, approximately 15 km south of Reddersburg towards Smithfield. A City to City bus collided with a truck, resulting in the untimely deaths of 10 individuals and leaving over 27 others injured.

"We are deeply saddened by this tragic accident. Our thoughts are with the bereaved families, and we wish a speedy recovery to the injured," said MEC for Community Safety, Roads, and Transport, Mr. Jabu Mbalula. "As we mourn this profound loss, we urge all road users to exercise extreme caution and adhere to the rules of the road. We must work together to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future."

In light of this tragic incident, MEC Mbalula emphasizes the importance of road safety and offers the following reminders to all road users:

- Always wear your seatbelt and ensure all passengers do the same.
- Avoid speeding and adhere to posted speed limits.
- Be cautious of pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users.
- Avoid using your cell phone while driving.
- Take regular breaks on long trips to avoid fatigue.
- Ensure your vehicle is roadworthy and properly maintained.

Free State MEC for Health, Mr. Monyatso Mahlatsi, provided an update on the injured individuals who have been transported to various hospitals in the Xhariep District and Pelonomi Tertiary Hospital. The breakdown of the casualties is as follows:

- P1 (Critical): 2
- P2 (Moderate): 3
- P3 (Slightly Injured): 22
- P4 (Declared Dead On Scene): 10 (Gender: Female - 7, Male - 3, including 1 minor)

Five critically injured patients have been transported to Pelonomi Trauma Unit, while 22 others have been taken to

Stoffel Coetzee Hospital in Smithfield. The deceased are being handled by Forensic Pathology Services in Bloemfontein. The Free State Government extends its heartfelt condolences to the families affected by this tragedy and calls for a collective commitment to road safety.

Premier of the Free State, Ms. MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae with the entire Provincial Exco is scheduled to visit the injured at Pelonomi Tertiary Hospital later after the conclusion of the Exco meeting.

End.

Issued by Ms. Hillary Mophethe, Community Safety, Roads, and Transport, 079 521 7113

Mr. Mondli Mvambi, Spokesperson: Free State Department of Health, 082 043 3744