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TRAGEDY

Culpable homicide probed after taxi overturns, killing six

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POLICE are investigating six counts of culpable homicide after six people were certified dead after the taxi they were travelling in overturned in Dannhauser, northern KwaZulu-Natal, at the weekend.

The driver of a minibus taxi is believed to have lost control of the vehicle, and it overturned.

KwaZulu-Natal police spokesperson Colonel Robert Netshiunda said police are investigating six counts of culpable homicide after six people died when the taxi they were travelling in overturned on KwaMdakane Road in Dannhauser on Saturday.

"The minibus taxi carrying 20 passengers was travelling from Ladysmith towards Mbabane Reserve when the driver allegedly lost control and the vehicle overturned," Netshiunda said.

"Six people were confirmed dead at the scene; another 14 passengers, including the driver, were taken to hospital for medical attention."

KwaZulu Private Ambulance (KZPA) spokesperson Chantelle Botha said the ambulance service responded to Stilldrift Road in Dannhauser after reports of a collision.

When emergency services arrived they found that a taxi had lost control and overturned multiple times.

"Paramedics found that two patients had sustained critical injuries and eight serious injuries."

Botha said he patients were treated on scene before being transported to

hospital. "Sadly, six occupants had sustained fatal injuries and had succumbed to their injuries."

The crash took place a day before October, known as Transport Month.

The KZN Department of Transport is expected to launch 2023 October Transport Month tomorrow.

Meanwhile, on Friday, Transport Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga together with the MECs of Transport, Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and Community Safety and Liaison, departments and stakeholders in the sector launched the 18th instalment of the annual October Transport Month campaign under the theme: "Siyakha – we are building a better transport infrastructure to grow South Africa Together."

"As we continue to provide world-class national roads, we have not shied away from the challenges posed by potholes on many provincial and municipal road networks. Through Sanral (SA National Roads Agency), and with the co-operation of the provinces and municipalities, the department rolled out Operation Vala Zonke, a national pothole repair programme aimed at road refurbishment, maintenance and the overall fixing of potholes in South Africa," Chikunga said.

"This has also resulted in the establishment of a Roads War Room with a call centre to complement the Automated Pothole Public Reporting application developed to track, trace and activate interventions to ensure that road maintenance will be carried out as soon as it is reported."



POLICE are investigating six counts of culpable homicide after six people were killed after the taxi they were travelling in overturned in Dannhauser on Saturday morning. | KwaZulu Private Ambulance

