



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**DATE: Monday, 26 September 2022**

### **MEC SIPHO HLOMUKA NOTES PHONGOLO COURT DEVELOPMENTS AS TRUCK DRIVER THAT ALLEGEDLY KILLED 20 PEOPLE ABANDONS BAIL APPLICATION**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka has noted developments in the Phongolo Magistrate Court where a truck driver that was involved in an accident that killed 20 people has abandoned his bail application.

The suspect Sibusiso Siyaya (28) through his legal team told the Phongolo court that he will not pursue further his bail application. The case is remanded for 25th October 2022 for further investigation.

Siyaya was arrested after he handed himself over to the police following a fatal crash in Godlwayo on the N2, which claimed 20 lives. He initially fled the scene.

The truck collided with a bakkie that was ferrying learners from local schools. Eighteen (18) learners, a student teacher and the bakkie driver died.

Most victims were buried at a mass funeral in Phongolo over the weekend with others were buried separately in Ngwavuma and Gauteng. The funeral was attended by senior government ministers led by the Minister of Police, General Bheki Cele, Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula and Education Deputy Minister, Dr Regania Mhaule.

Government used the funeral to announce a number of interventions, including widening the N2 in Phongolo, building a monument for the learners and deploying focused enforcement teams to deal with compliance on the road, with a focus on truck drivers.

It is alleged that Siyaya violated most traffic laws, driving at an excessive speed, overtaking on a double barrier line and driving on the on-coming traffic. He is facing 20 counts of culpable homicide, reckless and negligence driving, hit and run. Additional charges might be added once the investigation is complete.

Commenting on these developments, MEC Hlomuka said this case is important to the people of oPhongolo as tensions are still high in the community.

"We are monitoring this case very closely. These developments are noted; and we hope they will assist in finalizing this case sooner. The families of the victims need closure and we hope with the speedy finalization of the case they will be able to accept their loss. Drivers need to take responsibility for their actions on the road. Truck owners too must be held accountable for the condition of the vehicles and the behavior of their drivers," said Hlomuka.

Part of the activities for this year's October Transport Month will focus on trucks, including random assessments of vehicles, documentation of drivers, fitness of drivers and their conduct on the road.

Hlomuka concluded by urging all road users to take responsibility on the road as schools are set to close for the end of term and there will be a lot of movement on the roads.

Ends.