

## **15 Vehicle-Pile-Up in Mariannhill Toll Plaza, on the N3 Durban-Bound | Road fatalities in KZN are increasing**

Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

13 December 2024

Mariannhill Toll Plaza at 20h00: Regrettably, we are starting the long weekend on a very negative note. This follows a multiple vehicle crash just before Mariannhill Toll Plaza on the N3, Durban Bound.

According to the information from our highly dedicated team from Road Traffic Inspectorate, a Heavy Motor Vehicle from Zimbabwe collided into six trucks and five light motor vehicles.

The driver of a truck from Zimbabwe is still trapped. At this stage, we have recorded 12 red codes.

We request motorists to avoid the area and use alternative routes and to delay any trip leading to Mariannhill Toll Plaza

Our preliminary figures for the period 1 December 2024 to 12 December 2024 are a cause for concern.

In terms of crashes, in 2023 during this period we had 56 crashes.

In 2024 we have 63 crashes.

Following this afternoon's multiple-vehicle crash in Mariannhill Toll Plaza, this number will increase.

We have unfortunately recorded an increase of 13%.

In terms of fatalities, in 2023 during this period we had 61. In 2024 we have 64, which is an increase of 5%

Most of the crashes and fatalities occurred in the following districts

- eThekweni is leading with 26 crashes and 26 fatalities.
- King Cetshwayo – 10 crashes and 10 fatalities
- Ugu - 10 crashes and 10 fatalities
- Zululand – 5 crashes and 5 fatalities
- Umgungundlovu – 3 crashes and 3 fatalities
- Umkhanyakude – 3 crashes and 3 fatalities
- Uthukela – 3 crashes and 3 fatalities
- Ilembe 2 crashes and 2 fatalities
- Umzinyathi – 1 crash and 1 fatality

- Harry Gwala no crashes and no fatalities

According to our analysis, most of these fatal crashes occur between 6am and 10am. And between 5pm and 1am over the weekend.

The leading causes of accidents are speeding, drunken driving, fatigue, and roadworthiness of vehicles.

The figures we have highlighted call for drastic action to be taken.

It is for these reasons our highly dedicated team of more than 2745 officers from Road Traffic Inspectorate will be out on the roads this long weekend.

As we announced weeks ago, traffic officers are being supported by 808 vehicles.

They will intensify the monitoring of speed and ensure the enforcement of traffic rules.

Multidisciplinary roadblocks involving different law enforcement agencies will be carried out from this evening until next week.

The target is to have more than 99 speed operations across all corners of the province by the end of the festive season.

We remain worried about the increasing number of young people who are perishing on our roads, most of them under the influence of alcohol.

We have deployed road safety officers who are working with local municipal road safety teams.

In partnership with the liquor industry, we are also rolling out an awareness campaign targeting entertainment facilities in the townships and other areas in the cities and suburbs.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

Ndabezinhle Sibiya | 082 375 4742 | Spokesperson | MEC for Transport and Human Settlements