



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Press Briefing Addressed by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements | The  
Leader of Government Business | Siboniso Duma**

**Announcement of Decisive Interventions following the death of 21 people on KZN  
Roads in one weekend**

**Archie Gumede Conference Centre, Public Works Offices, Mayville, Durban**

**KwaZulu-Natal Province**

**02 September 2024**

Greetings to the Members of the media, we thank you for coming to this media briefing.

We have decided to convene this media briefing as you all know – the province is in mourning.

A dark cloud is hanging over the province following the death of 21 people in separate road accidents.

No amount of words can express our deepest sympathies to the families for the pain and irreparable loss of their beloved ones.

By and large, this is first biggest carnage on our roads under the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration here in KwaZulu-Natal.

We are shocked and in disbelief mainly because:-

1. the road accidents occurred in one weekend;
2. we experienced this tragedy during the last weekend of the end of Women's Month;
3. The sheer number of victims and circumstances under which the victims departed is just too ghastly to contemplate.

Since the tragedy happened, we have been in constant contact with the relevant provincial, national and local government authorities.

We are planning the best possible way of comforting all families of the departed souls.

The trauma that families are experiencing will take many years to heal but we are hopeful that the support to be offered by their government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal will give them enough strength and courage to tide over this storm.

Because this will be a long agonizing week to the families, we wish to announce the following interventions:-



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1. Assigning a team of highly experienced officials to visit all families starting from today. Each family is facing circumstances that are unique and therefore, our response is tailor-made to help each family go through this ordeal in a manner that shows empathy;
2. Consulting with families to ensure that the departed souls are provided with a dignified funeral. The department is obliged to intervene especially when more than five people have died in a road accident;
3. Coordinating with Road Accident Fund visits to individual families to explain a package of assistance provided by the Department of Transport under such circumstances that are beyond the family's control;
4. Determining, in consultation with families, days and location for a memorial service for the victims.
5. Determining, in consultation with families, days and location of funerals of the departed souls.
6. Working with the Department of Social Welfare, we have resolved to assign Social Workers to the affected families to provide on a continuous basis, psycho-social services during this period of grief.
7. We further resolved to assign Social Workers to the bereaved families to provide psycho-social services during the funeral ceremonies.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, as we indicated on Saturday evening, we have launched a thorough investigation.

In particular, we wish to highlight the following:-

### **R74 Sambaba Road, Ntunjambili – Near Greytown**

Firstly, there is a case of Culpable Homicide at Kranskop Police Station Case 01/09/2024

On Saturday 31st August 2024 at approximately 10h00 there was a motor vehicle collision along the R74 Sambaba area, uMzinyathi District involving one (1) vehicle.

According to our preliminary report, a single Toyota Minibus left the roadway, crashing into the guard rails, down an embankment, overturned and thereafter caught alight.

Six female passengers, including the driver, who was also a female, passed away as confirmed by detectives from the Kranskop Police Station.

All eleven (11) injured passengers were taken to Ntunjambili Hospital where they are currently receiving urgent medical attention. We are in touch with the MEC for Health, Nomagugu Simelane.



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### **R66 Mooi River to Greytown – 12 people died.**

The second case is of Culpable Homicide registered at Greytown Police Station Case 01/09/2024

Based on our preliminary report, on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 at approximately 16h47 there was a motor vehicle collision on the R622 Mooi River to Greytown Road at marker board 43, Road P14.2 Greytown involving two (2) vehicles.

In total, 12 people died.

It is alleged that the driver of the White Toyota Hilux NP 241354 lost control.

1. The driver of the Toyota Hilux LDV was unfortunately killed.
2. The driver of the Toyota Fortuner was also unfortunately killed.
3. Seven (7) passengers in the Toyota Hilux LDV passed away on the scene.
4. Two (2) Passengers in the Toyota Fortuner passed away on the scene.
5. One victim succumbed to her injuries at Greytown Hospital.
6. Two (2) Passengers from the Toyota Hilux LDV sustained serious injury and were taken to Greytown Hospital where they are currently receiving quality patient care.
7. One (1) passenger from the Toyota Fortuna sustained serious injury and was taken to Life Hilton Hospital where he is also receiving quality care.

### **R74 Sappi near KwaDukuza**

There is a case of culpable homicide that has been registered at Stanger Police Station.

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 at approximately 18H36 there was a motor vehicle collision on the R74 -Sappi intersection near KwaDukuza involving Two (2) vehicles.

According to eyewitnesses the driver of the Toyota Hilux and the Opel Corsa were involved in a head collision.

1. Three (3) passengers in the Opel Corsa died on the scene.
2. Three (3) passengers in the Toyota Hilux sustained injuries.

As we announced, we have brought in the national Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), Department's Road Traffic Inspectorate and the South African Police Service. The main focus is to determine whether there is negligence or to ascertain the root cause of the above accidents.

We do this to prevent recurrence and, where necessary, ensure that criminal prosecution is undertaken. This is part of ensuring and displaying Zero Tolerance.



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The Ntunjambili and Greytown road accidents are getting our special attention due to the fact the number of victims is huge and that a car caught fire.

I have insisted a forensic investigation be conducted. This will also help identify the victims and point out other areas that deserves special attention. We want families to find closure.

### **Week of Mourning**

Critically, we have declared a week of mourning.

We are mobilizing our Chaplains and all religious leaders from the department who are based in municipalities to embark on week of prayer.

We must pray to God to give families strength.

As the people of KwaZulu-Natal - members of the community, neighbors and friends, we are called upon by such road accidents to dig deep from the soul of our very being.

We have in the past stood firm, united and in support of each other in the face of adversity.

Let us once again show the people of this country and the world that we are guided by the spirit of Ubuntu. This is the cornerstone of our values as the South African nation.

### **Strengthening community involvement in Road Safety and Public Transport Matters**

Let me turn my focus to the decisive interventions on matters around road safety campaigns and public transport in general.

We have resolved to speed up the revival of community structures that will link the Department and the communities across all corners of the province.

We are re-establishing the Rural Road Transport Forums, which will be located in each ward.

We are speeding up the recruitment of over 600 people from local, district and provincial levels. They will serve as community representatives and be involved in road safety campaigns and other public transport activities for five years.

We want to see fully fledged Community Road Safety Councils (CRSC) and Public Transport Passenger Association (PTPA). These structures will focus on road safety campaigns and all plans around public transport operations.

It is important to point out that our records also show that the majority of road accidents occur at night from Friday till Sunday.



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Also, our youth and pedestrians are the major victims.

The future of this country gets destroyed when we lose future leaders – who are still at high school, in institutions of higher learning and others who have just started working.

We must come together and curb the carnage.

### **Working with Traditional Leaders**

On Friday last week, I was hosted by the Chair of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, Inkosi Sifiso Shinga. We value his support and guidance.

Weeks ago, I also met with traditional leaders in all municipalities under Umkhanyakude District.

We have agreed to work together on all transport and human settlements related projects.

We have also agreed to strengthen our communities and rebuild the community fibre.

The role of tradition and different cultures is the creation of a common set of practices that define a people and serves as the basis of common identity.

### **Multi-Disciplinary Roadblocks in Umsunduzi yesterday**

We are now turning our focus to Zero Tolerance Campaign.

We wish to issue a strong message that from now onwards our traffic officers will have no mercy to errant motorists and people who are violating the law.

We will do overnight operations and deployment of more personnel to ensure visibility. At some stage, it was known that Alufakwa in KwaZulu-Natal.

We want to bring back that strong message accompanied by strong action against lawbreakers.

As we stated on Saturday, it cannot be correct that each week or after a weekend, we have road accidents that are destroying families and victims leaving behind widows, widowers and orphans.

Yesterday we had a successful multi-disciplinary roadblock on the M70 in uMsunduzi Local Municipality around Edendale.

This multi-disciplinary operation consisted of officers from the Road Traffic Inspectorate, South African Police Services, Home Affairs Immigration and the Local Traffic Police.

We wish to report the following over 65 vehicles were stopped. Several motorists were charged for various offences such as the following:-

1. Driving without a licence and Professional Driving Permit (PrDP);



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2. Unlicensed vehicles;
3. Driving unroadworthy vehicles;
4. Being in possession of an unlicensed firearm;

The Home Affairs Immigration Unit also apprehended at least nine (9) undocumented foreign nationals. There is an investigation underway handled by the police.

We also want to beef up our capabilities in relation to using the cutting edge technology to fight vehicle theft. We are purchasing four Number Plate Recognition Vehicles. We will go to townships, suburbs and rural areas to flush our criminals using our roads.

### **Meeting with Key Stakeholders in the Public Transport Sector with Lt General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi**

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, unfortunately, the road accidents occurred two days after our meeting with the following stakeholders in the public transport sector:-

1. South African National Taxi Council;
2. Southern African Bus Operators Association;
3. KwaZulu-Natal Bus Council.

These stakeholders remain central in the planning, regulating, and facilitation of an efficient public transport system.

This meeting was attended by the KZN Police Commissioner Lt General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi.

All parties agreed to isolate and marginalize criminal elements that are using the taxi industry to commit crime. We discussed at length the issue of the stoppages of road construction and human settlements projects

We agreed that police will act firmly against elements within the taxi industry behind the stoppage of construction projects undertaken by the Department of Transport especially in King Cetshwayo, Zululand and Ugu District.

We also agreed that Operation Shanela will be sustained to remove illegal taxis operating without permits in various routes.

All parties agreed that law and order will be maintained to ensure the safety of commuters, members of the public, and socio-economic infrastructure;

Weeks ago, we announced an investment of R2 billion in public transport operations. This underpins our commitment to ensure stable and efficient public transport system in all corners of the province.



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Importantly, stable and efficient public transport system is the foundation for an improved quality of life for the people of KwaZulu-Natal and a cornerstone for socio-economic growth.

These are the guiding principles as we Inspire Hope for a Better Future.

I thank you.