

Arrest of a truck driver from Zambia who was trying to run away: Duma at the scene of the accident in Clifffdale, N3 and he believes the announcement by Minister Barbara Creecy of new Train Operating Companies will usher in a new era.

Media and public statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

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Clifffdale N3 Freeway: A multiple car accident caused by a truck driver from Zambia adds to increasing road accidents in KwaZulu-Natal since the beginning of June.

We are relieved that no one died from this major accident that disrupted traffic flow and inconvenienced hundreds of motorists. We wish those injured a speedy recovery.

I commend our highly dedicated team from the Road Traffic Inspectorate who apprehended the truck driver who was trying to run away from the accident scene.

I have mandated the RTI team to work with the South African Police Service to ensure that there is a successful conviction of this truck driver.

Importantly, we want to establish whether he had the relevant documents authorizing him to drive.

We welcome the fact that the Minister of Transport Barbara Creecy announced the completion of the adjudication process to select new Train Operating Companies (TOCs) by Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM).

For us as KwaZulu-Natal, we are looking forward to the movement of cargo from road to rail.

The six new entrants in the North Corridor, will be responsible for 15 routes for the transportation of coal and chrome.

We were informed by the Minister that the Train Operating Companies will carry an additional 20 million tonnes of freight per annum from the 2026/27 financial year.

This means fewer trucks and fewer accidents on our major routes.

Over the past few months, we have laid to rest many victims of horrific accidents involving trucks. In particular, the whole country was shaken following the death of nine victims in Empangeni along the N2.

Families lost their loved ones and breadwinners, with children becoming orphans as a result of one reckless truck driver.

Finally, we reiterate our position as the Department that our road networks, which are being constructed, rehabilitated, and repaired, should not be playgrounds for irresponsible drivers.

We will come down hard on reckless and irresponsible drivers. In August alone, we arrested more than 160 motorists for drunken driving.

Ends

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