

Drunk and reckless driver disappears after causing a major accident on R34: Duma vows to pursue a nine-year jail sentence or a fine of up to R180 000. He further calls on members of the public to assist with information about the whereabouts of the driver

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

27 July 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We are calling on members of the public in Empangeni and eShowe to assist with information that will lead to the arrest of a drunk and reckless taxi driver who caused a major accident on R34 between Empangeni and Eshowe.

Between nine and fourteen passengers could have died in that accident.

By law, it is a criminal offence to run away from the scene of the accident. What this reckless driver has done is equal to a hit-and-run. We want to ensure that he faces prosecution and a sentence of up to nine years in jail.

This is the second incident involving the disappearance of a drunk driver after causing an accident. During the first weeks of July, we received enquiries from the media about a drunk driver who disappeared after causing an accident on New England Road in Pietermaritzburg.

Regarding the latest accident on the R34, this minibus taxi was carrying family members who were travelling from Empangeni to EMasangweni. According to the passengers, the taxi driver was heavily intoxicated and was driving recklessly.

He attempted to overtake the Ford Ranger and hit the rear end, causing the two cars to veer off the road down the embankment. This was corroborated by the driver of the Ford Ranger.

Upon arrival at the scene of the accident, our dedicated team from the Road Traffic Inspectorate and members of the South African Police Service found that the driver had run away from the accident scene.

We remind motorists and members of the public of the following:

Stop: A driver involved in an accident, even if not at fault, is legally obligated to stop their vehicle.

Report: The accident must be reported to the police.

Remain at the scene: A driver should not leave the scene until authorized by the police.

Assist: If anyone is injured, the driver must assist them and ensure they receive medical attention.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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