

**Fifth learner from horrific scholar traffic accident has sadly died: Duma receives the bad news and states that “we were nursing hope that she was going to survive and rejoin her Grade 9 classmates at Zibukezulu High School.”**

19 September 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: This morning, I received the sad news of the untimely death of Ms Nomalanga Ndawonde (15).

She was receiving quality patient care at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital.

Around 3am, she succumbed to traumatic brain injuries she suffered when a Toyota Siyaya minibus taxi experienced brake failure while descending T22 Road in Unit 18 Imbali Township.

The taxi veered off the road, struck a tree and plunged into Senzokuhle Pre-School.

We were nursing hope that she was going to survive and rejoin her Grade 9 classmates at Zibukezulu High School.

Sadly, she has left us.

We are in touch with the Ndawonde family and this morning we expressed our deepest condolences to the family.

I have dispatched a team from my office and the Department to be closer to the family.

Our religious leaders will also be closer to the family. Councillor Ngubane is also in touch with the family.

The total number of learners who have died from this horrific accident has increased to five.

Three other learners have been laid to rest. The fourth learner, Mthobisi Khambule will be laid to rest tomorrow.

May the following departed souls rest in peace:-

1. Nomalanga Ndawonde - Female
2. Mthokozisi Khambule - Male
3. Luthando Zaca - Male
4. Omphile Mbhense - Female
5. Zanoluhle Notha - Female

As announced last week, an integrated approach has been adopted to ensure that we assist families and schools during this difficult period.

This involves the MEC for Health, Nomagugu Simelane, MEC for Education, Sipho Hlomuka, Mayor of Umgungundlovu District, Cllr Mzi Zuma and Mayor of Umsunduzi Local Municipality, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla and local councillors.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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