

Heavy rainfall in Margate, Port Shepstone: Duma sends RTI Team and engineers to assess road conditions and ensure the safety of motorists, international and domestic tourists.

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

21 December 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: Following heavy rainfall that hit Margate in Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, I have assigned our energetic team from Road Traffic Inspectorate and engineers to assess the condition of our road networks.

Margate is a preferred destination for both international and domestic tourists. We have been informed that as KZN we are likely to welcome 34 000 international tourists and 1.1 million domestic tourists this festive season.

In this regard, we want to ensure their safety.

In particular, the RTI team is working with traffic departments in local municipalities as part of road cleanups to ensure accessibility.

There are road networks that are managed by the municipalities and others by ourselves.

There are bridges and road networks that have been flooded. We will also observe the Umzimkhulu River Bridge, which is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

Our dedicated teams will ensure the following:

1. Traffic officers: Road Safety and Traffic Inspectorate—They will coordinate possible road closures and observation of major routes in consultation with relevant local authorities.
2. We wish to indicate that the team will also be responsible for escorting trucks and vehicles to ensure that there is no congestion on the road.
3. Drivers of Motor Graders: Transport Infrastructure Unit—Drivers of Motor Graders will respond with speed and a sense of urgency to clear debris and fallen trees.

Importantly, as the Department of Transport, we have internalized the fact that erratic weather patterns caused by Climate Change require agility, discipline, and dedication from all categories of staff in the department.

Flooding results in the disruption of the supply chain, with retailers affected when there is no movement of goods.

Accordingly, our plan includes continuous engagements with road freight industry stakeholders such as operators—trucking companies—and companies that are managing and supplying drivers.

The South African National Taxi Council, bus councils, and truck associations are key stakeholders that we will engage to strengthen our road safety measures.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements in KwaZulu-Natal, Siboniso Duma

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