

**MEDIA UPDATE | By the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma**

**May God strengthen the Shabalala and Madlala Families in KwaSwayimane**

10 August 2025

WATCH: This afternoon, I sent a team from my office to visit the Shabalala and Madlala families in Ward 13, KwaSwayimane, outside Pietermaritzburg

This follows the unfortunate tragic accident that claimed two lives.

It is not clear what caused a vehicle driven by Mama Shabalala to reverse and inadvertently fall off a cliff.

We thank a local teacher Ms Mbali Msomi who alerted Traffic Ambassador, Ayanda Msweli this morning. We acted immediately by calling for the helicopter rescue team and reinforcement.

We are saddened by the death of Mama Shabalala and Ms Madlala, a Grade 12 learner. Both were in the car.

Mama Shabalala, a single parent, received this car last year as a gift from her children. Sadly she left us on Women's Day.

The Helicopter Rescue Team worked under very difficult conditions to retrieve their bodies from the wreckage located more than 800 metres down the cliff.

We thank Rev. Xaba and our Ambassador, Pastor Vidima for being closer to the family.

I have mandated my office to arrange social workers to provide professional counselling service to the families.

Siletha ithemba | Sisebenza kanzima | Siyazimisela

Ends

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