

Missing Aircraft in the KZN Midlands: Duma in liaison with experts from the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) in support of search and rescue efforts | Ayanda Msweli is now liaising with the family of the missing pilot.

Media and Public statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma in support of rescue efforts

09 June 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We are in touch with experts and officials from the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) following the disappearance of a light aircraft carrying three individuals.

Ayanda Msweli, the country's leading traffic anchor, is in touch with the family of the female pilot who was in the aircraft.

We have been informed by ARCC that the aircraft, which departed Virginia Airport at around 15h00 on 8 June 2025, failed to reach its alternate destination and was last tracked flying over Ladysmith, heading south towards either Pietermaritzburg or Greytown.

Understanding severe weather patterns as forecast by the SA Weather Services, we have taken a decision to assist ARCC in their search and rescue operations.

In this regard, we wish to announce the following:

1. Head of the Department, Siboniso Mbhele is ensuring the co-ordination of KZN Transport Forums in Umgungundlovu and Uthukela districts.
2. Activation of structures and leaders of communities to be part of the search and rescue team in the primary area identified by ARCC.
3. Liaison with the families of the missing pilot and other individuals.

We are working with ARCC, South African Police Service in Greytown and other key experts that will ensure the successful search and rescue operation.

Importantly, as the Department of Transport we announced in April our plans for the aviation industry as guided by many regulations, including the Economic Regulations for Transport Act.

We are involved in serious work in various airports such as Margate, Oribi, Umkhuze, Richards Bay and Virginia Airport.

We are currently harmonizing our work with relevant departments such as SA Aviation Authority, Airport Company of South Africa, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

Ends

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

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