

The body of what is believed to be the missing pilot washed up on Durban Beach: Duma is hopeful that the discovery of the body will assist the family of Mr Andrew Blackwood-Murray to find closure after a prolonged uncertainty and grief

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

13 September 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: This morning around 07h30 my office was contacted by the Station Manager of Imbokodo FM, Sandile Ngema, informing us about the discovery of what is suspected to be the body of the South African Airways (SAA) and aerobatic pilot, Andrew Blackwood-Murray. The body washed up on Durban Beach.

It should be remembered that on the 14th August I addressed members of the media at the Durban North Beach near Suncoast following an aircraft crash.

Subsequently, the South African Civil Aviation Authority's Accident and Incident Investigation Division confirmed that around 13h45, a ZS-AEC extra 300 aircraft crashed into the ocean just when it was performing its final display.

At this stage, we wish to indicate that I have mandated my office to liaise with the SAPS and other relevant authorities. We trust their capacity to manage this sensitive matter.

For my part, I will be liaising with the Mayor of eThekweni, Cllr Cyril Xaba and the Minister of Transport, Barbara Creecy.

Importantly, we sincerely hope that the discovery of the body of Mr Andrew Blackwood-Murray will assist his wife and the whole family to find closure after a prolonged period of uncertainty and grief.

We pray to God to give them strength.

Finally, we commend the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), SAPS and all other role-players for their multi-agency search efforts. They did not give up despite challenges.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements Siboniso Duma

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