

The driver of the truck carrying sugar is missing as a horrific accident claims five victims: Duma warns communities to leave the accident scene immediately, as a diesel leak from an overturned truck poses an explosion risk.

Update for the media and the public by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

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N2, Between Amatigulu and Dokodweni: The death toll from this morning's horrific accident involving a truck carrying sugar and a light motor vehicle has been revised from four to five. However, the driver of the truck is missing. It is not clear whether he is under the truck or he fled the scene.

Our highly efficient team from the Road Traffic Inspectorate and investigators from the South African Police Service's Accident Unit are currently reconstructing the accident. We will also rely on the Road Traffic Management Corporation in terms of understanding what could have been the cause of the accident.

Based on a preliminary report from RTI, the truck slammed into a light motor vehicle and pushed it into the side of the road. The truck overturned and crushed the light motor into pieces. Five people died instantly. Their bodies have been taken to the mortuary. May the departed souls rest in peace.

We express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims. A team of officials from my office and the Department is at the scene of the accident. We are making all efforts to locate the families of the victims.

We request family members and friends, who are looking for their loved ones who were traveling to an event and ended up not reaching their destination, to contact Captain Thambo Shandu at Gingindlovu Police Station.

Lastly, we appeal to communities who have camped at the accident scene with buckets and are waiting to loot sugar at the back of the overturned truck to leave the area immediately. The area is hazardous, and a diesel leak from an overturned truck poses an explosion risk.

Ends

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