

Two Aircrafts Missing - two search teams will resume tomorrow morning at 06h00: Duma receives an update from the Aeronautical Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre. He welcomes an investigation launched by the Accidents and Incidents Investigations Division (AIID).

Media and public statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

15 October 2025

Nottingham Road: Following the location of one of the two missing aircrafts, we continue to liaise with experts from the Aeronautical Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

The aircraft went missing with one pilot having departed from Secunda Airport en route to Margate Regional Airport.

We are saddened by the unfortunate death of the pilot. We express our deepest condolences to the family of the deceased.

We pray to God to give the families of the two pilots strength during this difficult period.

We can imagine the pain experienced by the families of both pilots, especially the one who is still missing.

Critically, we welcome the announcement of an investigation that has been launched by the Accidents and Incidents Investigations Division (AIID).

At 20h30, we received an update about search and rescue operations from the South African Police's Search and Rescue Team.

With the assistance of a drone and cutting-edge technology, rescue teams located one pilot and an aircraft.

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather conditions, rescue teams could not retrieve the body from the wreckage.

The search and rescue efforts were eventually suspended. However, experts from ARCC have informed us that two teams will resume the search at 06h00 tomorrow morning.

One team will search around the area where the first aircraft was located. The second team will search South of Boston.

We are nursing hope that the weather will clear up to enable the search to resume.

In particular, after our interaction with ARCC at 15h00, we assigned our highly efficient team from the Road Traffic Inspectorate to provide traffic management in Nottingham Road.

The RTI team will resume traffic management tomorrow morning.

We plead with motorists and onlookers not to interfere with rescue operations.

Importantly, as the Department 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

Enquiries

Ndabezinhle Sibiyi | 082 375 4742 | MEC for Transport and Human Settlements