

Two remaining bodies of three residents who were swept away in New Hanover have been identified: Duma reflects on the intervention by Human Settlements following a visit by Minister Thembi Simelane.

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

03 December 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We have been informed by the Mayor of Umshwathi Local Municipality, Cllr Mandla Zondi, and Ward 02 Local Councillor, Sikhumbuzo Nxumalo, and UMgungundlovu Disaster team that the body of one resident who was swept away has been identified.

We have assigned our roving team to be closer as the recovery process gets underway.

Two remaining bodies of the three residents that were swept away in New Hanover have been identified. We express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims. All of the known victims have been recovered so far.

Close to 19 homes that were destroyed by floods and the recent hailstorm in New Hanover will receive our assistance as a matter of urgency.

We thank the Minister of Human Settlements, Thembi Simelane, for demonstrating bold leadership.

Her visit on Monday has augmented our intervention.

We have agreed that landlords who built houses along the riverbank will no longer be allowed to rent out their places.

Tenants will look for safe alternative places to rent.

People who live in both mud and block houses, not built by government, will be given Temporary Residential Units and their houses will be demolished.

As the Department, we are managing the possibilities of relocating four families who are living in houses built by the government, as their policy does not allow them to benefit twice.

Engineers will be assessing houses built away from the riverbank, which are also flooded during rainy days.

Finally, following last night's storm, we are receiving reports from our roving teams from Human Settlements in various district municipalities.

The team has reported that there are houses that have been damaged.

We are currently collating information and working with disaster teams to ensure that no one is left behind.

Regarding transport, our Road Traffic Inspectorate Team is monitoring traffic and ensuring the safety of motorists.

We have our engineers who are also assessing road infrastructure.

They will indicate if there is any need to close certain road networks.

We urge motorists to keep a following distance and reduce speed.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements in KwaZulu-Natal, Siboniso Duma.

Enquiries

Ndabezinhle Sibiya | 082 375 4742 | Spokesperson | MEC for Transport and Human Settlements