

**UPDATE: Horrific Accident in Unit 18, Imbali Township - Duma expresses condolences to the families of five children who died and working with other MECs and Mayors to accelerate interventions**

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

11 September 2025

Imbali Township, Unit 18: Following this morning's horrific accident, we wish to inform the people of KwaZulu-Natal that we are already in touch with the families of the children.

A team from the office is also interacting with teachers from Senzokuhle Pre-School and councillors from Ward 10 and 15 respectively.

According to a preliminary report, a taxi driver lost control of his minibus taxi and it plunged into the pre-school.

Learners were being transported from Ward 10 to high and primary schools in Ward 15.

Fortunately, from 49 children attending the pre-school, only five witnessed the accident.

They all survived.

We are saddened by the death of five learners.

Five other learners survived and were taken to the following public health institutions:-

1. Northdale Hospital
2. Edendale Hospital
3. Mbalenhle Clinic

The above number may change as we move along.

The departed children and those who were injured are from the following schools:-

1. Zibukezulu High School.
2. Mehlokazulu High School.
3. Sukuma High School.
4. Henryville Primary School
5. Phambili Primary School.

More shocking is the allegations made by neighbours that the driver of the minibus taxi jumped out of the moving vehicle before it plunged into the pre-school.

In this regard, we have mandated our Road Traffic Inspectorate to work with the SAPS as part of an investigation.

The driver was taken by police to the hospital.

We want to establish the following:

1. Why the taxi driver jumped out of the moving minibus taxi leaving children trapped inside.
2. The roadworthiness of the minibus taxi.
3. The status of the scholar transport as it has been confirmed that it belongs to Azaliya Taxi Association in Imbali.

We have taken a decision to be closer to the families during this difficult period.

We are working closely with MEC for Health Nomagugu Simelane, MEC for Education, Sipho Hlomuka, Mayor of Umgungundlovu District, Cllr Mzi Zuma and Mayor of Umsunduzi Local Municipality, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla to plan the mass funeral.

We will ensure that there is a restoration of the damaged early childhood development infrastructure for the children.

Importantly, the MEC for Social Development, Mbali Shinga will assist with the co-ordination of the provision of counseling to the children, teachers and all affected families.

Ends.

Enquiries

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