

UPDATE: KZN Department of Transport closer to Umkhumbi Wesethembiso Church in Zion and families following the death of eight church members in a horrific accident along the N2

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

12 May 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: As promised, we wish to inform the people of KwaZulu-Natal that we are in touch with the church and family members of the victims, mostly mothers, of yesterday morning's horrific accident along the N2 in Empangeni.

From the initial nine fatalities reported yesterday, we wish to confirm that only eight church members of Umkhumbi Wesethembiso Church in Zion, headquartered in Hluhluwe, died in that horrific accident that left the whole country in shock.

Unfortunately, the dismembered body parts resulted in the miscalculation of the victims. Counseling will be provided to the emergency personnel and to surviving members of the Church.

We can confirm that the driver of the tow truck was arrested. Members of the South African Police Service are investigating a case of culpable homicide.

The tow truck and Hyundai H-100 bakkie will be the subject of an investigation.

My office is in touch with Rev Simiso Mathe from the local branch called Intathakusa Church in Zion located in Ward 03, Umtubatuba Local Municipality.

The church is affiliated with Umkhumbi Wesethembiso Church in Zion.

He informed us last night that nine church members were treated and discharged. And that three are still in the hospital.

The identification of the victims in the mortuary will take place this morning in Richards Bay Mortuary.

I have mandated senior management from the Road Traffic Inspectorate, Road Safety, our Provincial Champlain Viva Mpungose, district and local chaplains to be closer to the families during this difficult period.

My office will work with the elders of Umkhumbi Wesethembiso Church in Zion and families to ensure that the departed are given a dignified funeral.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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