

22 injured in a bus accident travelling from Gauteng to an IFP Rally | Preliminary report indicates speed as the main cause | Duma attends roadblocks today

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

23 March 2025

Mariannhill Toll Plaza, N2: Sadly, as we wrap up the long weekend, I received a report from our highly efficient team from Road Traffic Inspectorate informing me about a bus accident on R34 near Vryheid.

The accident occurred between 06h00 and 06h30 this morning.

According to RTI, a bus carrying IFP supporters, which belongs to Sun Coaches Bus Company, overturned.

The latest preliminary report, which we received at 09h30, indicates that the bus driver was speeding. We will have no mercy on him.

We want to teach him a lesson for others to learn that Alufakwa KwaZulu-Natal - There is Zero Tolerance in KwaZulu-Natal.

From this bus accident, we wish to report the following:

1. No Blue Codes - Fortunately at this stage we don't have any passengers that has died.
2. 3 x Red Codes - Passengers are in a extremely critical condition and facing possible death as a result of injuries
3. 8 x Yellow Codes - Passengers are seriously Injured
4. 11 x Green Codes - Wounded but passengers able to walk.

Last night we unfortunately received a report from RTI about a head on collision on the R61 near Wild Coast Sun, on the South Coast.

Unfortunately, 3 people died in that horrific accident.

We send our deepest condolences to the families of the victims.

One person is in critical condition. Three other people who were injured are receiving treatment.

A preliminary report indicates that a VW car and Toyota Tazz were racing each other, resulting in a head-on collision with a Toyota Yaris.

The road was closed for 3 hours. I have mandated RTI to come down hard on reckless driving and speeding.

We are currently conducting a roadblock in the Mariannhill Toll Plaza. This morning, we are seeing many cars leaving Durban and KZN back to other provinces.

This long weekend, we experienced an increase in traffic volume to KwaZulu-Natal and Durban in particular.

We recorded more than 1000 vehicles per hour on Thursday afternoon and Friday.

The traffic volume gives us a sense of what to expect this coming Easter holiday—Good Friday and Passover Weekend.

We will be working with church leaders and inter-faith organizations to ensure that we check vehicles that will be used.

We will have high visibility of RTI throughout the Easter Holidays. We will work with traffic officers across all municipalities.

On the 27th March we will launch a Call Centre for the Department of Transport.

On the 28th March we will launch KZN Transport Forum comprising of around 900 members. They come from wards in local communities.

Transport Forums will assist with road safety campaigns and other Transport related community based activities.

The launch will take place in Pietermaritzburg at the Royal Showgrounds at 10h00.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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Umzimkhulu River Bridge will close officially at 15h00 today – marking the beginning of the emergency repairs and rehabilitation of the bridge built in 1958

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

17 March 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We wish to announce that UMzimkhulu River Bridge will close officially at 15h00 today.

This marks the beginning of the emergency repairs and rehabilitation of this bridge, which was built in 1958—using the old caisson construction system.

The repairs of the bridge will reinstate its durability for around 25 years and more.

Prolonged rainfall and floods undermined the piers of the bridge. The flow of water caused the bridge piers to rotate, making the bridge unstable and dangerous to the motorists.

This necessitated the closure to ensure the safety of the public.

We postponed the closure as we wanted to engage with key stakeholders.

I wish to pay tribute to the Institution of Traditional Leadership and Khoisan, leaders of political parties—African National Congress and Democratic Alliance, Ray Nkonyeni Business Association, Green Net, local ratepayers associations, South African National Taxi Council in Ugu District, and many others too many to mention.

Yesterday we had a successful meeting, which was characterized by frank and robust discussions. Our engagements were steeped in mutual respect.

We all agreed to act in the interest of the people of Ugu District Municipality and the province as a whole.

We all acknowledge that the closure will affect all residents—rich and poor. It is for these reasons that we agreed to hold hands and pull behind a common goal of Inspiring Hope for a Better Future.

Finally, we wish to announce the following:-

1. P464 will be used as an alternative route for now as we await the National Minister Barbara Creecy's approval to waive toll fees at the Oribi Toll Gates Ramps North and South.
2. If the toll waiver for the N2 is granted, there would be concurrent repair of P464 alongside the bridge, ensuring a safer and more efficient travel route for all users.

3. R190 million has been allocated for this project which will take 6 months.
4. About 121 local community members will be employed and will work 528 days with combined salaries of around R11, 7 million.
5. By 28th March 2025, a public liaison committee shall be appointed through the municipality and the department of transport with nominated members representing various community organizations.
6. The recruitment and selection of the Community Liaison Committee shall take place from the 11 April 2025
7. The commencement of work on site shall begin on the 11 May 2025 after the approval of work permit.
8. The estimated value of contracts to be allocated to emerging contractors is approximately R 7 632 000 (R7,6 million)
9. South African Police Service, who were present in the meeting, will act firmly against any rogue elements or construction mafias attempting to extort money or to stop the repairs.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements Siboniso Duma

Media Enquiries

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Floods in KZN are isolating communities, destroying the economy and undermining feelings of safety

Media Invite and Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma ahead of a meeting over Umzimkhulu River Bridge Closure

15 March 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We remain extremely concerned about the sustained prolonged rainfall that continue to leave a trail of destruction.

Our road networks and bridges have been destroyed and washed away.

Consequently, hundreds of communities are being isolated as they can't access hospitals, schools and socio-economic centres.

We are witnessing communities getting displaced and separated from their workplaces, homes and familiar communities.

Challenges facing the public transport system requires a collective approach involving all stakeholders and different spheres of government.

Tomorrow at 13h00, we will engage with key-stakeholders at Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality Council Chamber under Ugu District Municipality.

Thereafter we will address members of the media.

This meeting follows the destruction of Umzimkhulu River Bridge by sustained rainfall and floods. This has caused concrete cracking, displacement, and rotation of Pier 3.

The damage to Pier 3 is now substantially worse than during our previous joint investigation in November 2024.

We have agreed collectively that as part of prioritizing public safety, the bridge should be closed immediately.

Despite the recommendation for a complete closure, in tomorrow's meeting we will reflect on measures to mitigate the social and economic impacts.

Importantly, we can confirm that we have written a submission to the Minister of Transport Barbara Creecy requesting the South African National Agency to exempt motorists from paying tolls on the N2 as this will be the best alternative route. We do not want to overburden motorists, businesses, and commuters that are living under the yoke of poverty.

The traffic management experts are currently monitoring conditions and flood risks while keeping the bridge open for now until the meeting tomorrow with key stakeholders.

Finally, we send our deepest condolences to the family of a female motorist who died after her car was washed away in Pinetown.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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Names and other details of the victims of bus accident on the N2

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

13 March 2025

Shayamoya Sports Ground, Shakaskraal: After consultation with the leadership of the Twelve Apostles Church in Trinity we wish to correct the total number of church members who died in a bus accident between Mandeni and Stanger.

After verification and identification processes by the Department, family members who were supported by the church, only eight (08 members of the church are confirmed to have died.

Today we decided to dedicate our time and energy to consoling families of the deceased and ensuring that the families bury their loved ones with dignity.

May God receive the following souls:-

1. Thabani Mchunu 31 (Male) – Funeral to take place in Richards Bay - Sokhulu
2. Sibusiso Mangala (Male)
3. Nominyaka Mvela 49 (Female) – Funeral to take place in the Eastern Cape
4. Sindisiwe Mhlongo 31 (Female)
5. Sihle Malwane –Gumede 6 (Female) – Funeral to take place in Jozini - Umkhanyakude District Municipality
6. Lungile Gumede (Female)
7. Jabulile Mlambo (Female) Funeral to be in Manguzi in Mkhanyakude District Municipality
8. Inami Zikhali 13 (Female) Funeral to take place in Manguzi in Mkhanyakude District

In addition, we wish to indicate that a total number of church members who were involved in the accident is fifty four (54).

- Fourteen (14) were treated and discharged from General Gizenga Mpanza Hospital.
- Four (4) were treated and discharged from Sundumbili Clinic.

The following church members are still in hospital and we wish them speedy recovery.

- Five (5) females and 1 pregnant female.
- Three (3) children.

We have agreed with mayors of KwaDukuza, Mandeni and ILembe municipalities that the launch of Easter Holiday Road Plan will take place here in the district. Details will be announced soon.

Importantly, we want to make a strong statement that our road safety campaigns will not succeed without spiritual guidance from religious leaders.

Whilst we acknowledge that we have committed massive resources in the development of road infrastructure and to rollout road safety campaigns, there remains a great need for the participation of leaders of faith based organisations.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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Mass memorial Service for the 9 church members of the Twelve Apostles Church in Trinity who died in a Bus Accident on the N2

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

12 March 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the leadership of the Twelve Apostles Church in Trinity for the bold leadership during the most difficult period in the history of the church.

The death of 9 members has inflicted irreparable pain to the church.

Despite this pain, the leadership and the whole congregation have displayed resilience and pulled together in the same direction.

In particular, the display of enduring support to the bereaved families will help them tide over this storm.

We wish to announce that after consultation with the church and bereaved families, the memorial service will take place as follows:-

Date: 13 March 2025

Time: 09h00

Venue: Shayamoya Sports Ground, Ward 23, KwaDukuza Local Municipality

This accident occurred as we prepare for the Easter Weekend.

We have taken a decision to have the launch of the Easter Weekend Road Safety campaign in Ilembe District Municipality along the N2.

We will have a wreath-laying ceremony, interfaith prayers, and perform rituals to fetch the spirit of the departed in consultation with families.

The Mayor of Ilembe District Municipality Cllr Thobani Shandu, the Mayor of KwaDukuza Local Municipality Cllr Muzi Ngidi and Mayor of Mandeni Local Municipality Cllr Thabani Mdlalose have also been closer to the affected families.

Siletha ithemba | Sisebenza kanzima | Siyazimisela

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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The complicated rescue operation was completed at 23h30. And there was no victim left behind in the wreckage. This is after a bus rolled 100m down the embankment

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

10 March 2025

N2, Mandeni and Stanger:

As we start the day, we wish to express our deepest condolences to the families of the nine (9) church members of Twelve Apostles Church in Trinity, Ward 28 in KwaDukuza Local Municipality.

They departed unexpectedly following a bus accident on the N2 between Mandeni and Stanger.

This morning at 08h00 I will be at the scene of the accident. I will be joined by the Mayor of KwaDukuza Local Municipality Cllr Muzi "Ali" Ngidi, other local leaders and Department's Chaplain Apostle V Mpungose.

I received the last report at 23h30 last night from our highly efficient team from Road Traffic Inspectorate.

I asked the entire team involving RTI, Traffic departments - Fire and Disaster Teams from Mandeni, KwaDukuza and SAPS to execute the rescue operation with a high sense of efficiency and responsibility.

The team conducted a very complicated search and rescue operation due to the steep embankment and thick bush.

The operation was completed at 23h30 and no victim was found left in the wreckage.

The team will return this morning to pull up the wreckage. It will be taken to Road Traffic Inspectorate Offices in Gingindlovu.

This will enable the SAPS, Road Traffic Management Corporation and RTI to conduct an investigation.

This is the most difficult period for the Twelve Apostles Church in Trinity in KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa as a whole.

The Department will be in touch with all families and the leadership of the Church starting from today. We want to ensure that the victims are given a dignified funeral.

Importantly, we pray to God to shine his face on the families, relatives, church members and those who were injured.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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

Fatalities from Bus Accident has increased to eight (08). Duma to visit the scene of the accident and wreckage at 08h00 tomorrow morning.

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

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: Tomorrow morning around 08h00, I will visit the scene of the bus accident. Will also assess the wreckage.

I have just received an updated report from our highly efficient and dedicated team from Road Traffic Inspectorate.

Sadly, the number of fatalities has increased to eight (08).

Fatalities

- 6x female
- 1x male
- 1x Toddler

Injuries

- 4x red codes
- 35x yellow codes
- 12x green codes

Our hearts are with the families of the victims.

The bus carrying church members was travelling from Richards Bay to Shakaskraal. It was involved in an accident on the N2 between Mandeni and Stanger.

We express our appreciation to the hard working emergency team that was involved in a rescue operation.

We wish those injured speedy recovery. They have been taken to various hospitals in Ilembe District Municipality.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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Six church members have died in a Bus accident on the N2 between Mandeni and Stanger

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

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: I have just received a report from our highly efficient team from Road Traffic Inspectorate informing me about a bus accident on the N2 between Mandeni and Stanger.

A bus carrying church members travelling from Richards Bay to Shakaskraal had a tyre burst resulting in the driver losing control. The bus rolled down and landed on the embankment.

Sadly, at this stage we have the following fatalities.

- 5 females;
- 1 male.

The team is currently working with Mandeni Traffic Department, Emergency Rescue teams, and SAPS to rescue the injured.

We are requesting motorists to avoid the area just to allow the rescue operation to be carried out.

This bus accident has occurred as we are about to wrap up our Road Safety Plans for the Easter Holidays.

We wish to express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims. Myself and our newly appointed Chaplain will be co-ordinating the visit to the families of the deceased.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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E-Hailing: Duma mandates the Department to continue to meet with the e-hailing industry to clarify issues around operating licenses and ensure stability and compliance with laws.

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

07 March 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We are inundated with enquiries about developments in the e-hailing industry, especially from Uber and Bolt drivers, who are mainly young people.

Actually, there is confusion about applications for permits, and concerns have been raised about the impounding of vehicles of e-hailing drivers.

I have tasked a dedicated team from Provincial Regulatory Entity led by the Head of Department, Siboniso Mbhele to engage with stakeholders.

We want to do everything in the interest of everyone while ensuring compliance with the law.

This team has already met with the KZN E-Hailing Council, the Pietermaritzburg E-Hailing Organisation and Ubumbano.

Today, there is a meeting with Bolt.

The engagements are aimed at clarifying issues around the operating license and grant letter requirement before an operator card is issued.

The e-hailing leadership was informed that an operator card is issued to vehicles operating for a reward and to vehicles carrying dangerous goods.

Any person who operates for a reward is expected to have a valid operating license before operating such a service. This is according to Section 50 of the National Land Transport Act, Act 5 of 2009 (NLTA).

We observed that some public transport operators have been declaring to be operating for a reward without meeting the requirements of Section 50 of the NLTA.

Registering authorities are registering vehicles, but any person who declares to be operating for a reward has to prove that s/he has authority issued by the Provincial Regulatory Entity.

We must hasten to point out that the e-hailing industry is in the process of being regulated as they are now recognized in terms the National Land Transport Amendment Act, Act 23 of 2023.

This Act was assented to and signed by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 11 June 2024 and its regulations were gazetted on 29 November 2024 .

Public comments closed 30 days after the gazetting of the regulations, and the National Department is currently finalizing the regulations.

Thereafter the President will promulgate the date for the implementation of the National Land Transport Amendment Act.

The Act will regulate the e- hailing apps/platform providers and the e-hailing operators.

The e-hailing leadership was asked to explain to their members that vehicles are registered, but they will be issued operator cards upon the granting of operating licenses.

App/platform providers cannot self-regulate, and their demand that their subscribers should be given operator cards is contrary to the provisions of Section 50 of the NLTA.

The department will issue a memo this week so that the KZN E-hailing Council can share it with the App providers.

We have been informed that some of the e-hailing platforms are running away from the operators.

The leadership promised to report to their members. On the other hand, the Department committed to meet them at any given time when assistance is sought.

They in turn promised to comply with the laws of the land.

Critically, we welcome the fact that President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law the amended National Land Transport Act 5 of 2009.

This has paved the way for the regulation of e-hailing. Apart from formalizing the industry to ensure that operators comply with the legal standards, the amendments will strengthen the public transport system and ensure the safety of passengers and operators.

As the Department of Transport, we are planning to have a strategic session to reflect on the state of readiness for the implementation of the newly amended regulations, especially on e-hailing.

It is also important to note that the new Act gives the Minister of Transport authority powers to regulate pricing in the e-hailing sector.

In this regard, we want to do what is in the interest of e-hailing operators, the taxi industry, and the public at large.

We want drivers to have a decent income, and on the other hand, members of the public must have affordable, safe, and reliable public transport.

All of these will improve the quality of life in KZN.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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Funeral of the victim of a mudslide in KwaMakhutha

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

28 February 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: Tomorrow, I will set aside time and be with Nkwanyana Family as they lay to rest Mr Bongisisa Nkwanyana (45).

He left us unexpectedly after his bedroom had been covered to the brim with mud.

This follows a heavy mudslide caused by prolonged rainfall.

The funeral service is scheduled as follows:-

Date: 01 March 2025

Time: 09h00

Venue: Mkhumbi Sports Ground, KwaMakhutha Township, eThekweni Municipality

We know that no amount of words will ever heal the broken hearts and console the entire family following this sad loss.

We thank neighbors, relatives and religious leaders who have been supporting the family throughout this ordeal.

As the representative of the community, Cllr Puleng Hlomuka has worked very closely with me and the Mayor, Cllr Cyril Xaba.

She has bridged the gap between us and the Nkwanyana family during this ordeal.

Importantly, our hearts are with many other families that lost their loved ones.

Other elected public representatives and councillors in particular have been deployed to be with other families.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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Bullet Train between Durban and Gauteng | Rail networks to be revitalized

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma as he welcomes announcements by Premier Thami Ntuli in his State of the Province

28 February 2025

Woodburn Stadium, Pietermaritzburg: We welcome the historic announcement by the Premier Thami Ntuli in the State-of-the-Province Address today. In particular, in relation to the Department of Transport, we welcome his focus on the following:

- Revitalization of Freight Sector to ensure that the large freight cargo volume that is exported and imported through the ports of Durban and Richards is moved through the rail network.
- Acceleration of the establishment of a Bullet Train between Durban and Gauteng - a project supported by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

In line with the Premier's announcement on rail network, we will work with the national government to ensure that we are part of the revitalization and creation of improved efficiency in the rail network.

We will be aligning ourselves with the work being undertaken following an announcement made by national government to divide Transnet Freight Rail into a Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM) and a Transnet Freight Rail Operating Company (TFROC).

In particular, a dedicated team from the provincial Department of Transport will work with National Department of Transport and other key stakeholders such as TRIM and TFROC as we undertake this work.

As guided by the national government, TRIM will manage, operate and maintain the rail infrastructure while opening the market to third parties together with TFROC.

Undoubtedly, this arrangement will ensure the generation of revenue to fund rehabilitation of the rail network.

As KZN we offer to make a meaningful contribution towards the ushering of a new area.

We have stated in the past that our economy is driven largely through the transport and logistics sectors based on the two major ports housed in the province, namely Port of Richards Bay and the Port of Durban.

Both ports are economically strategic not only to the Province of KZN, but also to the national economy of South Africa since they are linked to the economic heartland of South Africa, Gauteng, via our road infrastructure.

The Port of Durban is also a transit point for cross-border container traffic for our neighbouring countries—a gateway to Southern Africa.

The Ports of Richards Bay and Durban are important contributors to international trade and a significant enabler for South Africa's and the Province's economic development.

Lastly, we will have a Freight Indaba as part of ongoing interaction with key stakeholders in the industry. The Bullet Train between Durban and Gauteng will help bridge the gap between KZN and that province. And will undoubtedly be a game changer in terms of improved public transport system.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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Duma is inspired by the King's speech during the Opening of the KZN Legislature

Statement by the Leader of Government Business, Siboniso Duma

27 February 2025

Woodburn Rugby Stadium, Pietermaritzburg: In his Speech, His Majesty Misuzulu kaZwelithini emphasized the importance of working together to create a prosperous province.

The message he communicated today is that, we are the generation of leaders who have a responsibility to pull together behind a common vision.

When the people of this province voted on the 29th May, they expressed their wishes through the ballot box.

They said – their government must be efficient and responsive to their needs.

In line with His Majesty's message, as the Leader of Government Business I under take to continue to Inspire Hope for a Better Future.

Working with the Premier Thami Ntuli, the office of the LoGB will play a critical role towards the coordination of the appearance of members of the executive before the activist Legislature under the leadership of the Speaker, Nontembeko Boyce.

As we await the State of the Province Address, this financial year, the Leader of Government Business will perform the following responsibilities:-

- Managing the affairs of the Provincial Executive in the KZN Legislature;
- Liaison between the Executive and KZN Legislature;
- Facilitating the programming of KZN legislature as initiated by the provincial executive council;
- It will be within the scope of the Leader of Government Business to arrange the attendance of MECs of the sitting of the KZN Legislature and other engagements of the legislature

In line with the King's call that we must work together, as the Office the Leader of Government Business, will focus on ensuring the:

- Prioritization of Bills by Departments, setting of realistic time-frames for developing & processing legislation & ensuring meaningful stakeholder consultation;
- Building stronger relations between the Executive & political parties represented in the KZN Legislature
- Encouraging MECs to respond promptly to matters raised by MPLs e.g. Parliamentary Questions & Reports to the Legislature and National Council of Provinces;
- Improving political management of the Legislative Programme through regular interaction with Presiding Officers, Whips, Committee Chairs & Party Leaders

Finally, we offer to have our fingers on the pulse of this province and be able to Inspire Hope for a Better Future.

Ends

Issued by the Leader of Government Business Siboniso Duma

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