

Devastating floods in Nepal, prayer for 6 KZN residents | Re-opening of Injesuthi River Bridge where 3 people were swept away last year: Duma ask God to strengthen families of the Nepal flood victims and he prepares both departments for rainy summer season in anticipation of heavy rains.

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

28 August 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: First and foremost, as the people of KwaZulu-Natal we must pray for the families of six KZN residents, from Isiphingo and Ladysmith, who disappeared following devastating floods in Nepal.

The trauma that families are experiencing will take many years to heal, but we are hopeful that the support being offered by the people of KwaZulu-Natal, non-governmental organisations and South African government will give them enough strength and courage to tide over this storm.

In my capacity as the leader of government business, I have assigned officials to liaise with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and ensure that there is no gap between the DIRCO and families in KZN.

Critically, as we are approaching the rainy summer season, we are already doing a risk profile of vulnerable communities.

Importantly, we are accelerating the rehabilitation and upgrading roads and bridges damaged by recurring floods.

We have re-opened Injesuthi River Bridge, which connects Wartburg and New Hanover under Umshwathi Local Municipality outside Pietermaritzburg.

We recall that the bridge suffered extensive structural damage after torrential rains triggered flash floods.

Three residents from Shiyabazali, an informal settlement located on the river floodplain, were swept away.

The re-opening of the bridge forms part of ongoing rehabilitation projects committed on the ground amounting to R14.6 billion with anticipated outputs of five million two hundred thousand square meters (5,2 million m²) over the next MTEF period.

We are focusing on increasing the lifespan of our road networks through resealing. We resealed commitments at R666 million with anticipated outputs of nine hundred three thousand six hundred square meters (903,6 thousand m²) over the next MTEF period.

We are also upgrading gravel roads to surfaced roads in various corners of the province, working with Amakhosi.

We will be opening roads and bridges, including Welisizwe Bridges.

Ends

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