

One victim has died as fire ravages 60 shacks around Durban's Red Hill Cemetery, and efforts are underway to locate relatives of the deceased. Duma receives calls of distress at 4am and activates an integrated approach involving three spheres of government to assist 6.

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

04 July 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: In the early hours of this morning we were contacted by a community leader in Malacca Road Informal Settlement Ward 110, around Red Hill Cemetery, alerting us about the death of one person in a devastating fire that destroyed 60 shacks.

We salute eThekweni Municipality Emergency and Disaster teams for once again extinguishing the fire immediately. Every second and every hour were dedicated towards the prevention of what could have been a severe devastation with many other lives lost.

Working with local community leaders and neighbours, we are searching for the relatives of the deceased who is known as Ntuli. We express our deepest condolences to the family. The death is being investigated by the SAPS.

Our ever-dedicated roving team is already closer to the situation and will ensure that residents are assisted.

The team is comprised of officials from Human Settlements, led by Head of the Department, Max Mbili, eThekweni Disaster and Human Settlements, and the National Department of Human Settlements.

In particular, our thoughts are with children who have been exposed to the extreme cold temperature during this period.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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