RTI reports that the luxury bus front and middle axles fell off—guardrails prevented a catastrophic accident on the N3. Duma is relieved that there were no fatalities and mandates RTI and Operation Shanela teams to intensify #NenzaniLaEzweni as we head towards the festive season.

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

16 November 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We are relieved that there were no fatalities from this morning's luxury bus accident in Pietermaritzburg.

Based on the preliminary report from the Road Traffic Inspectorate, the bus front and middle axles fell off.

This is after this speeding bus crashed into the guardrails along the N3, Southbound - towards Durban near New England Road.

We thank our dedicated RTI team for their efficiency in terms of traffic management. Their pro activeness prevented a major multi-vehicle pile-up on the N3.

Both lanes have been opened and there is traffic flow.

Worryingly, RTI is suspecting that because of speed the driver lost control and crashed into the guardrails.

The bus axles came off as the result of the impact. In particular, without guardrails, 28 people, including the driver, could have died as the bus rolled over.

We wish to inform relatives of those who were injured that have been taken to the following hospitals:-

- Northdale
- Edendale - Harry Gwala Hospital
- Greys
- St Annes
- Eden Gardens

Flowing from this accident, we wish to politely warn long-distance and luxury bus operators that there will be severe consequences for using unroadworthy buses to transport innocent passengers.

As we head towards the festive season, RTI and Operation Shanela teams will undertake unannounced rigorous inspections as part of #NenzaniLaEzweni

We will impound unroadworthy buses in order to prevent any loss of lives.

Based on our previous experience, there is an increase of fatal crashes in November and December, with over 10% of annual deaths.

This is due to long-distance holiday travel and increased traffic volumes.

Friday evening through Sunday night accounts for over 52% of all fatal incidents, with the peak time bracket falling between 18:00 and 23:59.

I have mandated the Head of the Department, Zibusiso Dlamini, to finalize a comprehensive and single road safety plan, based on #NenzaniLaEzweni operation, for the festive season.

This plan should involve stakeholders in the following industries: -

- Tourism
- Hospitality
- Entertainment
- Municipalities
- Traffic Departments
- Freight and Logistics
- SANTACO representing taxi associations
- National and KwaZulu-Natal Bus Council.

Ends.

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

Enquiries

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