

Reed Dance Update: Unroadworthy bus removed by Operation Shanela Teams during an inspection at the RTI Testing Centre in Pinetown: Duma is encouraged by an integrated road safety plan being implemented by teams from KZN DoT, eThekweni Municipality, other municipalities, and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

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

10 September 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We are deploying all the resources to ensure the safety of maidens and guests who will be traveling to the Reed Dance to be held at eMashobeni Royal Palace this weekend.

Bayede Ndlulamithi !!

Silo Samabandla onke !!

On Wednesday, I, together with the Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Cllr Cyril Xaba announced plans to conduct a roadworthiness inspection of buses and taxis hired to transport maidens.

Today, the Head of the Department, Zibusiso Dlamini, and senior management teams from eThekweni Municipality witnessed an extensive inspection of some of the 33 private buses.

The inspection is currently being conducted by Operation Shanela teams at the Road Traffic Inspectorate Centre in Pinetown.

Within 10 minutes of the inspection, a bus, with defective brakes and a defective driver's seat, was declared unroadworthy and suspended.

It is important to point out that when the seat is not firmly bolted down, it can shift suddenly with the driver losing control of the vehicle and may cause a multi-vehicle collision.

In addition, if the seat collapses during an emergency, the driver won't be protected by his seatbelt and can be ejected through the rear of the vehicle.

The team, therefore, has prevented what could have been a carnage.

Apart from inspections that are being conducted in our testing centres across the province, the RTI and Shanela teams will provide dedicated traffic-management support across key routes leading to eMashobeni Royal Palace.

Teams will ensure public transport inspections, high-visibility patrols, and roadside compliance operations on the following road networks: -

- N3 and N2
- R66 Nongoma to/from Pongola / •R66 Nongoma to Nhlophenkulu
- R66 Nongoma to/from Nongoma
- R618 Nongoma to/from Hlabisa
- P234 Nongoma to/from Mkuze
- R66/R69 Nongoma to/from Louwsburg
- P735 Nongoma to/from Maphophoma
- R618 Nongoma to/from Hlobane
- R34 corridors, including Blood River to Mashobeni

The operation will focus on maintaining uninterrupted traffic flow, reducing congestion and delays.
It will prevent serious and fatal road crashes and ensure the co-ordination of emergency services.
Drunk driving operations will be conducted to remove intoxicated drivers from our roads.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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