

Snow blankets houses and communities isolated, cut off and unable to communicate because of poor communication signal: Duma says teams from Human Settlements will focus on communities in Impendle, Kokstad and Underberg.

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

11 August 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We are currently in Kokstad, having inspected various areas that experienced heavy snowfall.

We wish to single out the Kokstad and Impendle municipalities, where communities have been exposed to severe freezing temperatures.

Their houses are leaking as they have been completely blanketed by the snow.

In particular, communities who are living below the belly of the Drakensberg Mountains in Impendle remain completely isolated.

Heavy snow has weakened the network and cellular signals, resulting in residents being cut off and unable to access emergency services and to communicate with the outside world.

There are many other communities in deep rural areas in Underberg, Kokstad and the border between KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape that have been severely affected by the snow.

We thank the Minister of Human Settlements, Thembu Simelane, who has dispatched a team that will join our roving team from Human Settlements.

Working with the Impendle Local Municipality, Umgungundlovu District Municipality and other key stakeholders, the team will speed up interventions in order to assist affected communities.

We commend the RTI and operators of graders for their efficiency and precision in executing the Snowfall Response Plan.

Although it is raining in various parts in KZN, major routes are clear and not affected by snowfall.

The following routes are clear:-

- R34 - Richards Bay, Eshowe to Mpumalanga.
- R33
- R617 - to Bulwer is clear and no snow.
- R56 to Kokstad and Eastern Cape - very clear but it is raining.
- Midway to Mooi River is clear although it is drizzling.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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