

**The sad passing of the former MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba, is a depletion of dedicated leaders who laid a solid foundation: Duma salutes Mahlaba for accelerating the rollout of socio-economic infrastructure for the benefit millions of ordinary members of society.**

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

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Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We join leaders of society and millions of people across all corners of the province of KwaZulu-Natal and the country in mourning the tragic departure of the former MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba.

Critically, I personally send my deepest condolences to the Mahlaba family and his organization which he served until his last days - the African National Congress.

Our Road Traffic Inspectorate and local traffic departments will allow the South African Police Service to handle this matter and do all the necessary investigations as per the normal procedure.

The RTI informed me that our departed colleague was struck by a car in Allen Street in Newcastle.

Based on our figures, this is a major road network that is critical for economic development in Newcastle and is used by more than 60 000 cars and heavy-duty vehicles daily.

The busy and highly active route is also used by workers, ordinary members of society, and private companies operating in different sectors of the economy. These include the global steel and mining company, ArcelorMittal.

Undoubtedly, his sad passing is a depletion of dedicated leaders who will be forever credited for championing the rollout of infrastructure for the benefit of the people of this province.

As the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, he dedicated himself towards accelerating socio-economic infrastructure such as new schools, libraries, science laboratories, clinics, and hospitals.

We will never forget him for his commitment towards the restoration of the dignity of ordinary members of society through the construction of thousands of decent houses and handover of title deeds.

Critically, he represented a new crop of leaders in our activist KwaZulu-Natal Legislature who understood the importance of ensuring that the young and old enjoyed and benefited from this freedom and democracy.

May the departed soul rest in peace!!

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