

Tragic N17 Ermelo Toll Plaza accident - names of seven of the eight people who died have been released, and they are from KwaZulu-Natal: Duma says a team from his office and the department is interacting with the family of the victims in Inkosi Mtubatuba Local Municipality

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

14 September 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We have assembled a team from my office and the Department to liaise with the families of the seven of the eight people who died in a head-on collision on the N17 near Ermelo Toll Plaza in Mpumalanga Province.

The victims were travelling to Johannesburg after attending an ordination church event held in Manguzi, KwaZulu-Natal.

May God receive the souls of the following departed victims: -

- Mr Dumisane Sithole with his wife, Mrs Pinky Mambonambi Sithole and their two children;
- Mother-in-Law, Mother and Grandmother - Mrs Cora Mambonambi Simelane;
- Pastor Mr Nhlabathi and his wife Mrs Dumisile MaMlambo Nhlabathi.

We send our condolences to the families of the victims, including the family of the driver of the other vehicle that was involved in this head-on collision.

This is the most difficult period for the families.

Losing family members after the most successful ordination brings unimaginable grief and opens gaping wounds that no human being can heal.

We invite God to shine his face upon families and help them find strength in prayers.

At this stage, we wish to report the following funeral arrangements:

- Mr Dumisani Sithole, his wife Mrs Pinky Mambonambi Sithole and their children will be laid to rest in eDumbe
- Mrs Cora Mambonambi Simelane will be laid in KwaSomkhele
- Pastor Mr Nhlabathi and his wife, Mrs Dumisile MaMlambo Nhlabathi (to be confirmed)

Ends.

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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