

Media Statement
To All Editors and Journalists
19 October 2025

PHYSICAL IDENTIFICATION OF THE VICTIMS OF N1 LOUIS TRICHARDT BUS ACCIDENT TO CONTINUE ON MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2025

The Limpopo Provincial Government, in collaboration with the Embassies of Zimbabwe and Malawi, will on Monday, 20 October 2025 meet with families and relatives of the victims of the tragic bus accident that occurred on the N1 near Louis Trichardt. The purpose of the meeting is to support families during the physical identification of their loved ones.

This marks the next phase in the identification process, following the completion of post-mortem examinations conducted by the Forensic Pathology Services. The South African Police Service (SAPS) Victim Identification Centre has also commenced scientific identification procedures, including DNA analysis and fingerprint matching, in partnership with authorities from Zimbabwe and Malawi.

“We appreciate the progress made thus far and extend our sincere gratitude to the team that has been working tirelessly to make sure we fastrack the repatriation process,” said Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba.

The Limpopo Provincial Government continues to offer psychosocial support services to affected families, including trauma counselling, through the Department of Social Development, while logistical arrangements are being coordinated through the Provincial Disaster Management Centre.

Meanwhile, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) has issued a statement that says the bus involved in the accident was not roadworthy, carried more passengers than its permit allows as well speeding whilst descending the mountainous area.

We welcome the commitment by Minister of Transport, Ms Barbra Creecy, to take firm action against the bus company as well as ensuring that law enforcement agencies are alert on the road and act swiftly against those who break the law.

The next phase of the physical identification process will take place as follows:

Date: Monday, 20 October 2025

Time: 12h00

Venue: Siloam Hospital, Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District

For media enquiries, please contact:
Ndavhe Ramakuela
Provincial Government Spokesperson
Tel: 082 200 5357
Email: RamakuelaN@premier.limpopo.gov.za

Thilivhali Muavha
Premier's Spokesperson
Tel: 066 011 7034
Email: MuavhaT@premier.limpopo.gov.za
Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government