

Child suffers 10 months after electric shock

A CLERMONT mother laments the pain she has suffered after her 16-year-old son was severely injured due to an electric shock. Thuthukile Sigwebela said it has been almost a year since her son has been semi-paralysed because of the injury.

"It was March 2022 when we had electricity outages, and people from the municipality came in to fix the problem the next day. They left the place with no warning signs. My son walked on a cable coming back from school. He was severely burnt around the ankle area on both his legs – the shock was so severe that even the pants he wore were terribly torn. The way things were, I was almost sure that he had died, but he survived, luckily," she said.

Sigwebela said it has been downhill ever since and that has resulted in her child not proceeding to the next grade. "He missed two terms of school, and during these terms, we have been up and down to hospitals. My child has seizures now, and that's something he never suffered from before. I took him back to school towards the end of the year, and it had not been even an hour since he left when the teachers brought him back home because he suffered a seizure," she explained. The mother said this is not only affecting them financially but her child's well-being. "It is enough that we have to go for regular check-ups, but we also need transport money to get there. Sometimes we have to hire a car, and we also need to buy medication sometimes," she said. Sigwebela said the incident was reported to the municipality, and authorities came to assess the situation but have not gotten back to her ever since. EThekweni Municipality's spokesperson, Msawakhe Mayisela, said their findings reveal that it is not their fault. "Thieves stole our cables and the remainder was lying there and accidentally the child walked over it. There is nothing that the city can do," he said.

New sticker for scholar transport providers

Uproar over new strict rules

THE tension was high when scholar transport providers met with Clermont and KwaDabeka Taxi Association members last Friday.

The association held a meeting in their offices in New Germany to outline new rules and regulations for the new school year.

An uproar started when it was announced that small cars and seven-seater cars would not be allowed to transport children.

According to the association, that decision was announced by the transport board, and they were just relaying the message.

"The small cars and seven-seaters are not equipped to transport people – it is just a family car, and it becomes a problem when there is an accident, as they are not registered as a public transporter vehicle," said chairman Mandlenkosi Mchunu.

Addressing the scholar transport providers, the association chairman said they will not tolerate the overloads on the vehicles that are transporting learners.

Mchunu warned drivers and owners to adhere to the laws.

"We will not tolerate carelessness and overloading. The child must be picked up from the gate and be dropped off there on his or her return. This thing of waiting with children in the parks while waiting for other children should be left



Clermont and KwaDabeka Taxi Association public relations officer, Sunshine, shows the new sticker for school transport providers. He urged drivers to adhere to the rules and regulations of the road.

in the past. These are our future leaders, and we need to protect them, and they should be safe."

He said the owners should stick to the amount that they as the

association have agreed upon and not increase the money for their own benefits.

A representative from Metro SAPS, who also attended the

meeting, said they will be out in numbers to make sure that everything goes smoothly on the road as schools reopen on Wednesday, January 18.

"No car will be allowed to transport learners without the association sticker. We will be doing head counts. The driver should have a valid licence and professional driving permit (PDP), operator card and a permit to transport children," he said.

Sudden decision

One of the seven-seater owners said they were furious about this sudden decision. "We have been transporting children with these cars for years; why stop us now? We were not even given notices or warning. What about the parents that have already paid and have trusted us with their children? They are taking away our income – we are still paying for these cars. How are we going to survive?"

"They have told us that we need to get taxis or combis to be able to continue working. It is just ridiculous," said the angry owner.



The taxi after the incident. PHOTO: Submitted

Accident leaves 10 passengers injured

ABOUT 10 people have sustained injuries in a taxi accident at the corner of Escom Road and Suffert Street in Pinetown. ALS Paramedics reported that they responded to the incident just after 10:00 on Tuesday morning.

"On arrival, the paramedics found multiple patients and immediately called for more resources to be dispatched. People had sustained injuries ranging from moderate to serious and were stabilised on the scene before being transported to various Durban hospitals for the further care that they required," they said. At this stage, the events leading up to the crash are unknown, however, it will be investigated by SAPS.

Kassier Rd Upgrade Phase 1A



The long overdue upgrade of Kassier Rd has begun with the commitment by the eThekweni Municipality to the funding of this work enabling the development of Westtown.



Westtown is a mixed-use precinct of urban and green spaces that will be developed over the next 5-10 years across a range of uses. This development will lead to a number of infrastructure upgrades in the area including:

- Bulk water, wastewater and electricity
- New bridges over the M13 and N3 (pedestrian bridge)
- A new loop ramp & bridge over Kassier Rd for access into Westtown
- The makeover of Kassier Rd from the R103 to Milky Way into a 4-lane dual carriageway with central median and sidewalks. This will be completed in 3 phases with phase 1A and 1B scheduled for completion end 2024.

PHASE 1A

From the N3 to the intersection of Milky Way (MR559).



From the end of January 2023 a bypass road will be in place along this section of Kassier Rd. It will run in both directions and will be in place for approximately 12 months.



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