

Five women found dead

Police are trying to track down the families of five women, believed to be Lesotho nationals, who died in an accident

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PICTURE: GALLO IMAGES



COME CLAIM THEM: Police are seeking for the families of five women, believed to be Lesotho citizens, who were found dead in a Ford Figo near the border at the weekend.

THE bodies of five women believed to be Lesotho citizens have been lying in the mortuary since the weekend while police try to track down their families.

The bodies were found inside a blue Ford Figo on the R26, the road that links Senekal and Ficksburg, a border town of Lesotho.

The car, with registration DB 80 PP GP, had overturned.

Police spokesperson Capt Phumelelo Dhlamini said the incident happened on Saturday at 7pm and the bodies had not yet been claimed.

"The cause of the accident is unknown at this stage and we are investigating a case of culpable homicide.

"However, we found five Lesotho passports inside the car and it is believed they may be Lesotho nationals travelling from Gauteng to Lesotho," Dhlamini said.

Motorists have described the road as a hazard due to numerous potholes and are urging the provincial government to fix it.

Thabo Motsamai from Senekal said he had two burst tyres while on his way to Ficksburg.

"The road is in a bad condition. It is full of potholes and if the potholes are not taken seriously, many more people are going to die," he said.

During the TNA Business Briefing in Xhariep last week, police, roads and transport MEC Sam Mashinini said they were aware of the road and it would soon be fixed along with many other roads across the province.

Mashinini said his department would spend more than R8.7bn over the next financial year. His budget includes money allocated to road infrastructure.

During the department's budget vote last year, the MEC said in total, R100m was budgeted for the expanded public works programme projects in townships.

Construction of the following roads were expected to be completed at a cost of R213m – the A57 Meadows road, Kroonstad Through Route, Monontsha Pass, Tumahole Transport Route, Parys to Vredefort and Vrede to Memel.

"Furthermore, re-gravelling, fog spray and resealing of some roads needing maintenance will be done in all five districts.

"For these maintenance projects, the department has set aside R446m to address the maintenance backlog including preventative maintenance on both surfaced roads and gravel roads," Mashinini said.

Dhlamini said anyone who had information about the accident and the deceased should contact Det- Const Keketsi of Senekal on 073 444 9619 or 058 481 6219.