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Following the recent Mafube Village bus and train disaster, Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport MEC Thulasizwe Thomo paid an unexpected and unannounced visit to conduct an impromptu evaluation on scholar transport.

The welcome inspection took place in the early hours of August 23 and revealed that out of 74 public transport vehicles, 30 were issued summons.

The horrifying statistic means that 40% of Middelburg and Wonderfontein's public transport vehicles are deemed unsafe or unfit in some way.

To combat these issues, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport promised that the ongoing law enforcement operation is to "clamp down the number of public transport operators who are operating on the roads without

valid operating licenses and the usage of unroadworthy vehicles".

MEC Thomo then visited Morelig Combined School, which was home to the six children who tragically lost their lives in the Mafube Village accident.

His arrival at the school saw 11 buses issued with summons, seven of which were impounded and four discontinued.

The department stated they are committed to enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for lawlessness on our roads, especially in public transport and scholar transport.

"We will continue to take decisive action against operators who fail to comply with regulations, putting lives of learners at risk and other road users," MEC Thomo said.

There were 26 vehicles impounded, 18 vehicles were found without a permit, seven were found unroadworthy, and one vehicle was found overloaded.



The remains of the school bus from the Mafube Village disaster. **Photo: Tiisetso Malunga.**



A photo from the day of the accident.