



## community safety & liaison

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Community Safety and Liaison  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

TO : ALL MEDIA  
DATE : 29 July 2013  
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

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### **MCHUNU CONDEMNS CONTINUED ROAD BLOCKAGE BY THE MUDEN COMMUNITY**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, has expressed concerns at the continued blockage of roads, violence and stone-throwing in Mudén near Greytown.

Today the MEC, who last week held a meeting with all stakeholders in a bid to defuse this stand-off in Mudén, received reports that protesters had continued to blockade the road and that there were attempts to dig-up the road.

The MEC condemns the blockading of the road linking Mudén with Greytown as this has a negative impact on the economy of these small farming towns.

The current protests were triggered by a difference over land ownership which is being contested between the community and a local farmer. The matter has since been taken to the Court

This conflict has brought about instability in the area which has affected the free movement of locals, farmers and learners.

Last week MEC Mchunu (Friday, 26 July, 2013) held a meeting with protesters, SAPS, Farmworkers' Committee and the representatives of the farming community.

He appealed to those engaged in the protest on the need for their protest to be conducted peacefully and urged them to stop blockading the road. Those protesting made an undertaking that they would remove the stones from the road.

However, and to MEC's disappointment, he received reports this morning that the road remained barricaded and that there were also attempts to dig up the road.

Senior Department's Officials have been dispatched by the MEC to go and attend to this matter urgently.

The MEC is calling on all parties involved in this conflict to work swiftly towards resolving it so that normality could be achieved.

**"The Government of KwaZulu-Natal respects the Constitutional rights of the people of Muden to protest lawfully and peacefully. However, violent protests that impede the freedom of others to exercise their rights and to drive safely on provincial roads are totally unacceptable and should be condemned with in strongest possible terms."**

**"In this regard, I urge those who have genuine grievances to rather engage in a dialogue with authorities in a bid to resolve their problems rather than embarking on violent protests that may undermine the validity of their cause,"**

**"However, in a situation like this police have a duty to safeguard peace, protect life and property and ensure that the situation returns to normality. And as such police are keeping a close eye on the situation in Muden," he said.**

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