



community safety &  
liaison

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Community Safety and Liaison  
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### **MEDIA ALERT**

TO : ALL MEDIA  
DATE : 5 August 2013  
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIR

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### **MEC MCHUNU CAUTIONS EDUMBE PROTESTERS**

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, has noted with concern the on-going protests in eDumbe, Paulpietersburg, which have been characterised by violence, blockading of roads and the burning of, at least, one police vehicle.

Responding to this chaos and mayhem, Mchunu warned protesters to conduct their protest within the law and not interfere with other people's rights to normal life.

Today police fired rubber bullets in a bid to disperse a group of protesters who had blockaded the road between the town of eDumbe and the residential area of eBilanyoni.

These protesters disturbed the normal functioning of traffic and set a police vehicle on fire as they refused to peacefully disperse.

Police have since arrested more than 30 people including learners who were part of these protests.

Mchunu condemned the conduct of the protesters, saying all protest should be conducted within law.

**"We are disappointed at the unruly conduct of the protesters. We want to reiterate our position that all protests should be conducted peacefully and with a due consideration to other members of the public and public property. We have said time and again that as the Government we respect and hold dear the democratic rights of people to hold protests in KwaZulu-Natal. But such right should not override rights of other people to drive freely and conduct their business free without being disturbed by others,"** said Mchunu.

Mchunu urged the protesters to engage in a meaningful discussion with those in authorities, especially the taxi operators, to resolve their differences over the hike in taxi fares.

**"In situations like these, we always urge for the constructive engagement between those who hold different views. This should be done urgently to avoid further destruction of public property so that normality should return,"** he said.

Ends

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