



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR/EDITORS, PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU EXPRESSES CONCERNS AT ROAD BLOCKAGE DURING PUBLIC PROTESTS IN THE PROVINCE

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has expressed concerns about the growing trend of communities barricading public roads during public protests in the province.

Mchunu was commenting in the wake of a public protest in KwaMadundube outside KwaDukuza, which has resulted in community members blocking traffic on R74.

MEC Mchunu said whilst community concerns around service delivery might be genuine and legitimate that they have no right to block the road.

A few weeks ago, the community of Mooi River staged a public protest and blocked traffic on the N3, which is the national road linking KwaZulu-Natal, the Free State and Gauteng.

Last month the community of Murchison, outside Port Shepstone used stones and tyres to block main road N2, which links KwaZulu-Natal – Eastern Cape and the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Mchunu said what worried him the most was the criminal element and the violent nature that accompanied these road blockages.

"The growing trend of protestors barricading roads is worrisome. This act does not only infringe on the right of other road users but it also affects the economy of the province. As a province and country we are badly affected economically as both businesses and citizens are then prevented from conducting their day-to-day business by road closures. I would want to appeal to the people of this province to use peaceful means to voice their grievances and avoid blocking roads," said Mchunu.

The latest service delivery protest in KwaDukuza is due to the community members protesting against what they call lack of service delivery.

This road links KwaDukuza – Maphumulo – Kranskop – Greytown – Weenan and Bergville.

Ends.

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