



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC KAUNDA CONDUCTS INSPECTION OF MAIN ROAD R603 FOLLOWING SPATE OF DEADLY ACCIDENTS OVER THE PAST WEEKS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, today embarked on an inspection of main road R603 linking uMbumbulu and Pietermaritzburg following the recent spate of fatal accidents.

Kaunda was accompanied by a team highly qualified of engineers, members of the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI), South African Police Service (SAPS) and senior departmental officials.

This road (R603) is currently undergoing rehabilitation, which started in January of this year, and was halted after an informal business group called Delangokubona interrupted the contractor and demanding to be sub-contracted.

The visit to this road by MEC Kaunda was prompted by the death of more than seven people on this road in separate accidents over the past few weeks. The recent one happened on Sunday, 4 September, when a truck crashed with a Toyota Corolla, leaving four relatives dead on the scene.

“It was important that we also meet and inspect this road to understand why so many accidents are happening. After inspecting the road with the team of engineers, we resolved that further investigations be carried out on some stretch of the road. Due to the increase in population and amenities such as schools, some areas need attention and speed calming measures. We have also instructed the team working on the construction site on this road to enforce adherence to signage to avoid unnecessary accidents,” said Kaunda.

The rehabilitation of the road is set to resume next week, and Kaunda has cautioned the Delangokubona group that while government supports the agenda for economic transformation and redistribution, any form of violent tactics will not be tolerated.

He also visited the accident scene where the four Mfeka family relatives died before visiting the family.

“Looking at the accident scene, it is possible that one of the drivers might have been driving on the wrong lane. The investigation is now being handled by the SAPS collision unit. We thank God that despite damage to houses as a result of impact, there were no

further lives lost. There is a nearby crèche where children are still visibly traumatised. We have instructed our Road Safety unit to work with other departments to urgently organise counselling services. Such fatal accidents have a devastating impact in the lives of individuals and families, and we must all work together to end the scourge,” said Kaunda.

Kaunda concluded by conveying his deepest condolences to the affected families, saying the government will do all it can to assist the bereaving families during this difficult period.

Ends.

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