



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 24 October 2017
ATTENTION: EDITORS and NEWS EDITORS

KAUNDA ISSUES STERN WARNING TO ILLEGAL PROTESTERS IN MZINGAZI NEAR RICHARDS BAY

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has urged the police to maintain a strong presence in the area of Mzingazi, near Richards Bay following illegal public protests which brought the area to a standstill today.

In the early hours of the morning, some community members in the area blockaded roads with burning tires and stones. This prevented a number of people in the area from going to work and learners could not reach school on time as they were expected to start their exams today.

Police are investigating the cause of the protests.

Kaunda, who visited the area today and met with the senior police management in the cluster, condemned the incident and praised the police for acting swiftly in diffusing the protests. "We are pleased that the police have heightened the visibility in Mzingazi and I have asked them to maintain a strong presence in the area for 24 hours until the situation returns to normal," said Kaunda.

He said that government will leave nothing chance to ensure that there is peace and stability in the area. We also want to urge people to follow proper channels if they want to voice their concerns. "A right to protest is enshrined in the country's constitution and when people exercise it they must not infringe on the rights of others. Since some of these protests are illegal, they tend to be violent and impact negatively on service delivery, said Kaunda.

He also warned that should such protests result in the damage of property, organisers will be held liable and face the full might of the law.

Ends.

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 0728031462/ 0796995755/ Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi 081018 0518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport