



## transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

### COMMUNICATIONS

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#### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
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ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors &PR

#### **KAUNDA ISSUES STERN WARNING TO TRUCK DRIVERS TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda, has issued a stern warning to the truck drivers who continue to cause disruptions and blockade the high ways in spite of the ongoing negotiations with employers to address their plight.

Kaunda was speaking at a meeting convened by the Departments Transport as well as Community Safety and Liaison to give feedback on the complaints raised by truck drivers last month, which include illegal employment of foreign truck drivers.

Represented by the National Truck Drivers Association and the Association of Truck Drivers, Kaunda urged the drivers to desist from violent actions which have characterised their protests in the country.

On the 2 and 30 April, truck drivers blockaded the N3 highway in Mooi River Toll Plaza, resulting in the looting and burning of 18 trucks. There were 56 people who were arrested for looting.

Kaunda condemned the incident and described the actions of drivers as unjustified since negotiations had already begun with government and truck operators.

Following the incident, the Premier convened a meeting with the truck operators and relevant government departments. The meeting resolved to expedite the process of signing the protocol agreement between the employers, Departments of Labour, Trade and Industry, Transport, Home Affairs and the South African Police Service to allow law enforcement officers to deal with the challenge of truck drivers who are in the country illegally.

Kaunda urged the truck drivers to engage in negotiations in good faith.

"We must all work together to find a lasting solution to the problem. As government, we have put systems in place to ensure that no further incidents of violence occur because we have received information that these blockades will be staged in other parts of the province," said Kaunda.

The Spokesperson for the truck drivers, Mr Mthakathi Muthwa, condemned the incidents of violence that occurred last month and assured the people of KwaZulu-Natal that given the

progress government has made in addressing the issue, no incidents of violence and blockading of roads will recur in the province.

“We would like to apologise to the people of South Africa for the inconvenience caused by the protests. We are going to talk to our members throughout the country to desist from such acts of criminality,” said Muthwa.

**Ends.**

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