



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC KAUNDA CONVENES URGENT MEETING WITH PRASA AND UMLAZI COMMUNITY FOLLOWING TORCHING OF TRAIN AND CARS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has convened an urgent meeting with PRASSA to resolve the stand-off between train commuters in uMlazi and the rail parastatal.

The meeting follows the torching of a train, four cars and a ticket office at Umlazi Train Station on Friday. Preliminary investigations reveal that commuters went on a rampage after experiencing train delays. On Thursday, a female train driver was attacked in Stanger by commuters and she is currently fighting for her life in hospital.

Kaunda has condemned the incidents and vowed that police will work around the clock to ensure that all those responsible for the damage of government property and the attack of a train driver will be brought to book.

We acknowledge that PRASA is experiencing some challenges with the rolling stock which results in delays. The Minister of Transport has been on record on a number of occasions assuring members of the public that the current leadership of PRASSA is addressing the challenges facing the utility.

Kaunda said that government viewed both the uMlazi and Stanger incidents as pure acts of criminality and the law enforcement agencies must ensure that the culprits who committed crime face the full might of the law. "No amount of anger can warrant damage to property whether public or private. As government, we have taken a decision that people who embark on illegal public protests and damage property must be charged criminally and be litigated individually," said Kaunda.

Tomorrow, Kaunda will be meeting with the management of PRASSA in Durban and the community of uMlazi to find a lasting solution to the problem. Kaunda said it was critical that stability returns in the area so that trains can resume operations.

Media contacts:

Mluleki Mntungwa: 0609741140/ 0606511138 / Mluleki.Mntungwa@kzntransport.gov.za
Kwanele Ncalane: 0728031462/ 0796995755 / Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: www.twitter.com/KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport