



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

21 June, 2018

### **UPDATE**

#### **MEC KAUNDA COMMENDS THE SWIFT ARREST OF 64 TRUCK DRIVERS FOR OBSTRUCTION OF N3**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda, has commended the swift arrest of 64 truck drivers for public violence at Van Reenen Pass following the blockading of N3 freeway yesterday.

Kaunda has also thanked the law enforcement officers for working throughout the night to ensure that the road is opened for traffic flow at 7am today.

At around 3am yesterday, truck drivers embarked on a go slow along N3 in Warden in the Free State. By 9am, the protests had moved to Van Reenen Pass resulting in the closure of both North and South Bound lanes along the N3 corridor.

"I urged the truck drivers to desist from their illegal and obstructive action since government is still in a process of engaging in negotiations with all parties involved regarding their grievances. The provincial government led by Premier Willies Mchunu, has noted the drivers grievances and that subsequently led to a meeting with truck owners to try and resolve the matter."

It is alleged that drivers are protesting against the employment of foreign truck drivers. The modus operandi for the blockades appears to be similar to the ones that took place on the N3 in Mooi River on two occasions. Police will remain in the area until calm has been completely restored.

Kaunda has also registered his concern over the unfolding illegal public protest that are at times violent and destructive in some parts of the province, following reports of a public protest taking place on the N2 near the Herman Botha intersection. Traffic has now been diverted to R618 towards Hlabisa. Another public protest with burning tyres has been reported on the P188 near Park Rynie. Motorists are urged to use alternative roads until the situation returns to normal in these areas.

Yesterday Premier Willies Mchunu mandated MEC Mxolisi Kaunda and MEC Ravi Pillay to convene an urgent meeting with the community of Mtubatuba to listen to their service delivery grievances, which have resulted in violent protests along the N2. Both the MECs committed government to respond to all their service delivery challenges by next week Thursday and urged community members to desist from violent protests. Any member of the public who embarks on illegal violent protest will face the full might of the law. An unconfirmed number of protesters have been arrested following this protest.

Kaunda said that government was not against peaceful demonstrations that have followed due processes of the law. “However, we will not allow illegal demonstrations that result in destruction of property and limiting movement of people and goods in the province. We have dispatched law enforcement officers to affected areas to restore law and order,” said Kaunda.

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