



community safety & liaison

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Community Safety and Liaison
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MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR CALM IN MTUBATUBA FOLLOWING PUBLIC PROTESTS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community safety and Liaison, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda has strongly condemned the torching of two trucks and the blockading of the N2 between Mtubatuba and Hluhluwe in the northern part of the province.

Members of the community blocked the N2 near the Zamimpilo Market at Mfekaye in Mtubatuba in the early hours of this morning protesting against the slow progress of service delivery in the area.

Among the issues that have sparked the protest include building of a Police station, Clinic and government subsidised houses.

MEC Kaunda has called for calm and asked the law enforcement agencies to heighten visibility in the area, particularly the N2 Freeway between Hluhluwe and Mtubatuba.

Furthermore, he warned community members to desist from causing havoc and damage to public or private property during their protest. **“Torching of trucks and blocking the N2 freeway is an act of criminality. As government we will not tolerate such blatant disrespect of the rule of law”**, he said.

Kaunda said that such illegal protests have a negative impact on the economy of the province. **“The N2 freeway is a gateway to our neighboring countries such as Swaziland and Mozambique and therefore the blockading of this route disrupts the transportation of many goods which are destined to these countries which are our trade partners”**, said Kaunda.

Kaunda said the police are on the ground to bring to book those responsible for torching trucks during the protest. He also called on communities to engage the government and other relevant structures and find mutually beneficial solutions to their concerns.

In an effort to eliminate the spate of illegal public protests in the province, the provincial government has developed the Provincial Intergovernmental Relations Protocol on Public Protest Management. “This protocol will go a long way in assisting government to detect such incidents before they escalate into public protests,” said Kaunda.

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