

20 February 2019

**MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR CALM IN NHLALAKAHE IN GREYTOWN
FOLLOWING PROTESTS**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has called for calm in Nhlalakahle township in Greytown following service delivery protests.

On Sunday, members of the community blockaded all the roads leading to the township complaining about employment and business opportunities in the construction of a TVET College in the area.

Kaunda addressed members of the community today and called upon them to desist from blockading roads as discussions were underway to resolve their grievances.

Kaunda also reminded the protesters that blockading roads was illegal and deprived non-striking community members their right of movement and access to basic services. "We are concerned that this illegal protest has resulted in the closure of schools in the area and people are unable to access the hospital," said Kaunda.

After addressing members of the community, MEC Kaunda and the ANC leadership, led by the Provincial Secretary, Mdumiseni Ntuli convened a meeting with the organisers of the protest and agreed to suspend the illegal protests as negotiations were continuing.

Kaunda said that while engagements with the protesters were underway, police will continue to maintain a strong presence in the area. "We have asked the police to ensure that the area is stable and people are able to go to work, schools and hospital," said Kaunda.

He also assured members of the community that as a responsive government, they will be working around the clock to ensure that all the issues raised by the community are addressed.

Tomorrow at 2pm the leadership of the province and the municipality will be convening a meeting in Nhlalakahle to give feedback to members of the community on the outcome of a series of meetings held overnight.