



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday, 18 September 2019

MEC NTULI INTERVENES TO RESTORE CALM AND END VIOLENT PROTESTS IN KWADLANGEZWA FOLLOWING VIOLENT STUDENTS PROTESTS

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison in KwaZulu-Natal, Bheki Ntuli has stepped in to intervene in restoring calm in the Greater KwaDlangezwa area following violent student protests.

Yesterday afternoon, 17 September 2019, MEC Ntuli convened an urgent meeting with police management to develop a clear strategy of securing the area thus ensuring that perpetrators of violence are taken to task. The police briefing was preceded by a stakeholder engagement which saw the representatives of student organisations and the KwaMkhwanazi Traditional Council coming together to discuss safety challenges in rental cottages.

Whilst MEC Ntuli described the students concerns as genuine, he however condemned the violent protests which resulted in the torching of a satellite police station in KwaDlangezwa. About thirty students were arrested for public violence and are due to appear in court for a bail application on Monday, 23 September 2019.

“The issues raised by students are serious and must be given the attention they deserve. The issue of crime and security measures in rental cottages must be urgently addressed. After the briefing with the police, there are clear indications that crime in KwaDlangezwa is subsiding since 2017 to date. We however agree that a safety strategy needs to be developed to improve security features, working together with the University of Zululand and private cottage owners. Already the City of Umhlathuze has installed two new flood lights to improve lighting and visibility in the area,” said Ntuli.

Ntuli also warned students that the torching of the satellite police station will affect service delivery in the area and spoke harshly against threats of barricading main road R103 and the N2. Ntuli also welcomed the commitment by Inkosi Mandla Mkhwanazi to call an Imbizo on the 25th September 2019 of all cottage owners to address the issue of spatial planning and security.

“The commitment by Inkosi Mkhwanazi is pleasing and will boost our efforts of finding long lasting solutions to the security issues affecting students in the broader community within KwaDlangezwa. There is also a commitment by the Mkhwanazi clan to donate more land to the university for the building of additional residential units which will go a long way in resolving the accommodation crisis. As the

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 0728031462 / 0796995755 / Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: [@KZNTransport](https://twitter.com/KZNTransport)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport

department we are going to be following up on the issue of the request for a permanent police station in KwaDlangezwa” concluded Ntuli.

A government delegation comprising of the Office of the Premier and the Department of Community Safety and Liaison is engaging with the university management following the announcement to suspend academic activities at the university. Police will continue to maintain presence and high visibility until the situation is finally brought to normal.

END./

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 0728031462 / 0796995755 / Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: [@KZNTransport](https://twitter.com/KZNTransport)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport