

2 March 2019

MEC KAUNDA COMMITS GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS SERVICE DELIVERY CHALLENGES IN UMZIMKHULU

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has called for calm in Umzimkhulu as the provincial government is processing its demands.

Kaunda led the Delegation of the provincial government which included the MEC for Public Works and Human Settlement, Ravi Pillay and the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Mluleki Ndobe to the area today after members of the community embarked on a three-day service delivery protests.

Among the issues raised by the community include shortage of water, employment opportunities, housing and escalating crime.

Kaunda said that it was unfortunate that the protests have resulted in the loss of life as one member of the community was fatally shot yesterday. "On behalf of the provincial government, we want to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased. Our prayers are with the family of the deceased during this time of bereavement," said Kaunda.

During the meeting with the community representatives, Kaunda said that a team of government officials was busy consolidating responses to all the issues raised by the community and a report back meeting to the community will be convened before the end of next week.

"While we are attending to the genuine service delivery challenges raised by the community, I have asked the police to conduct a thorough investigation into the murder of a community member and arrest all those implicated in the damage of property," said Kaunda.

The number of police personnel has been increased to stabilise the area. Kaunda urged members of the community to remain calm as government has already begun a process of addressing their concerns.