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MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

**MEC NTULI INTERVENES IN A BID TO END VIOLENT PROTESTS IN JOZINI
SPARKED BY CROSS-BORDER CRIME**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Bheki Ntuli, has called on law enforcement agencies to step-up enforcement operations in Jozini, northern KwaZulu-Natal, to curb cross-border crime following violent protest action.

MEC Ntuli condemned the torching of a police vehicle and barricading of the main road into the town, which has led to the disruption of government and business operations.

“Law enforcement agencies must clamp down on lawlessness and ensure forceful enforcement of the rule of law. We will attend to the concerns raised by the protesting community members and investigate allegations relating to corruption that have been levelled against police officers,” said MEC Ntuli.

A representative from the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) was part of the engagement with community representatives. MEC Ntuli tasked IPID to probe the allegations raised against police officers who were accused by the community of being involved in hijackings, vehicle theft and cross-border crime in the area.

“We want to send a very strong message to those who abuse their power and use their strategic positions for self-enrichment. Nobody is above the law and I want these cases to be thoroughly investigated without any fear or favour. We will not allow criminals and corrupt officials to undermine our efforts in fighting cross-border crime in this province,” said MEC Ntuli.

MEC Ntuli further reassured the community that the construction of concrete barriers (New Jersey Barriers) along the border between South Africa and Mozambique was on track. He said the project was strategic in reducing the number of stolen vehicles that are moved across the border, undocumented foreign nationals and other cross-border crimes.

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