



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC NTULI CONDEMNS ACTS OF VIOLENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND FOLLOWING THE BURNING OF POLICE VEHICLE

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Ntuli has strongly condemned the malicious damage to property after violent clashes erupted between the protesting University of Zululand students and the police.

The protesters started barricading the entrances of the KwaDlangezwa Campus and torched a police vehicle. It is suspected that a petrol bomb was used during the attack.

Additional police have since been deployed in the area and the situation is being monitored to prevent further damage to property and disruptions in the area.

Commenting in the wake of this violent protest, MEC Ntuli condemned the burning of a police vehicle, saying those responsible must be taken to task.

"It is totally unacceptable that a police vehicle would be burnt when police are there to ensure that innocent people are protected, and property is safeguarded against vandalism. We have engaged the police to move swiftly and arrest all the perpetrators responsible for the malicious damage to property and acts of violence. Violence is not the solution when there are issues and we expect students in institutions of higher learning to engage constructively in resolving challenges," said MEC Ntuli.

Last year MEC Ntuli had to intervene in resolving violence at the very same university after a local police satellite police station was set alight. It is believed that students are protesting over student funding issues and academic exclusion.

MEC Ntuli expressed utter disgust at the targeting of enforcement officers, saying anyone who is attacking the police and their buildings must be dealt with immediately.

"We are calling for calm as we are stepping in to stabilize the situation. We urge the university management to work with enforcement agencies and to protect non-protesting students," added MEC Ntuli.

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