



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### DIRECTORATE:

Private Bag X9043, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200

Communication

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House, 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Tel: 033 355 8624 Fax: 033 355 8632

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Tuesday, 13 July 2021**

### **MEC NKONYENI CONDEMNS THE GROWING RACIAL TENSIONS IN THE PROVINCE**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni has noted with dismay the growing racial tensions among community members in the province. This follows reports that some community members, acting in protection of their properties, have begun attacking other racial groups with the allegation that they are posing a threat to the damage or theft of their belongings.

There is a number of scattered attempts of racial attacks in areas such as Phoenix, Chatsworth and parts of Pietermaritzburg in which it was reported that they have since experienced such violence. The MEC warns that this kind of repulsive behavior will further divide us in a time when we should be uniting in the fight against the serious acts of looting, serious destruction of property and vandalism of the infrastructure.

MEC Nkonyeni condemns the actions and calls for unity among community members, against any criminal elements taking place around their areas.

"We are calling upon all the affected community members to work together in the fight against any violence. We also urge that community members work together with the law enforcement agencies and not take the law into their own hands. There are ongoing investigations, and those who are found to be engaging in these acts of violence will not be spared, they will be arrested and prosecuted," said MEC Nkonyeni.

The MEC appeals for calm and restraint from the ongoing violent protests as they leave a lasting effect on families. Currently, around 26 people have been reported dead. MEC Nkonyeni passes her heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.

The MEC welcomes the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) by the President, his Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa. To date, over 187 (to be updated) people have been arrested to be prosecuted in relation to the ongoing unrest in the province. The MEC expresses her confidence in restoring peace and order, with the deployment of SANDF.

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