



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### Media Advisory

**15 March 2022**

#### **MEC NKONYENI CONDEMNS THREATS AGAINST STAFF BY 'BUSINESS FORUMS'**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni, has condemned the ongoing threats and acts of criminality targeted towards departmental resources by so called 'business forums.'

Since last week, staff have reported three incidents of violence at construction sites including being threatened at gunpoint. Staff had to flee and suspend all operations fearing for their lives.

These threats come as the department is rolling-out a massive infrastructure programme "Operation Siyazenzela," which is aimed at maintaining gravel roads. The programme is part of building internal capacity of the department, build reliance in our infrastructure and rapidly attend to issues of service delivery.

In some areas where the departmental yellow plant was deployed, police had to be called to intervene as the so-called business forums were threatening staff at gun point.

Commenting after receiving these disturbing news, MEC Nkonyeni, asked police to increase vigilance and move swiftly to arrest these group of criminals who are delaying service delivery. She also appealed to members of the communities to protect departmental properties and employees.

"This thuggish behavior is delaying service delivery and is affecting the infrastructure roll out in the province. No one has a right to stop government from doing its work. Operation Siyazenzela is aimed at responding to the service delivery challenges especially in areas that were ravaged by heavy rains. We will not be stopped in our quest to fast-track service delivery. We are engaging with the police to move with speed in arresting the culprits and securing the departmental staff and equipment in construction sites. Communities must stand up and defend the departmental resources and staff working in their areas," said Nkonyeni.

The Department is also considering additional security measures to protect staff and its plant against these criminal elements.

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