



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Media Advisory

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ENKANDLA COMMUNITY CALLS OFF VIOLENT PROTESTS AFTER INTERVENTIONS BY MEC HLOMUKA

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka, welcomes the decision by the community of eNkandla to call off protests which had resulted in a shutdown of the town and major roads last week.

Today (Monday, 23 January 2023), according to reports all roads are open, learners and teachers are able to access schools and community members are able to use the local town.

Last week a violent public protest erupted, resulting to the shutting down of the eNkandla town and burning of properties, including a mobile ambulance.

The suspension of this violent public protests follows the intervention and the visit to the area by MEC Hlomuka, who was accompanied by the Head of Department, Mr Siboniso Mbhele and other senior managers.

The Department tabled a comprehensive plan to all major roads in eNkandla, some which need to be upgraded from gravel to tar, some need to be maintained and rehabilitated.

The plan was firstly detailed in a stakeholder meeting with Amakhosi and representatives of the King Cetshwayo District, eNkandla local municipality, local taxi operators and the business community.

During the engagement with the community, MEC Hlomuka introduced engineers who have already been appointed to start working on the assessment and design of roads such as P16 and P50.

Commenting after receiving the situational report this morning, MEC Hlomuka welcomed the working collaboration with all the structures in eNkandla, saying constructive engagements are the only solution to resolving problems instead of violence.

"We welcome the reports we are receiving this morning which are indicating that all roads are open in the area of eNkandla. We are however monitoring the situation very closely and police deployments will continue in the area. We appreciate the working relationship with various stakeholders in resolving the challenges of road infrastructure in the area. This is evident that if we work together as the provincial government, local government and Amakhosi, without politicizing matters, we can achieve a lot. As the department we will ensure that all the plans tabled are monitored and will ensure that there are regular engagements with the community and structures in eNkandla," said Hlomuka.

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