



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Communication

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2023**

### **KZN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT APPALLED AT THE ATTACK AND RAPE OF THREE FEMALE SECURITY OFFICERS AT ITS OFFICES IN MEREBANK - DURBAN**

As the country intensifies the 16 Days of Activism against Women and Children, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is appalled at the attack and rape of three female security officers by criminals targeting departmental offices in the eThekweni region.

According to the reports, heavily armed criminals entered the Department of Transport offices in Merebank in eThekweni at around 02h30 in the morning.

They kept hostage three male security officers, who belong to the private security company contracted to the department.

Sadly, three female officers who were held at gunpoint in another room were sexually assaulted and raped.

The criminals also stole departmental work tools which are used for road maintenance and other assets.

The female staff have been taken in for medical examination and cases have been opened with the police.

The investigating team has also visited the Departments' offices to initiate the investigation and are giving this case high priority.

Immediately after hearing the incident, the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka assigned the Head of Department, Siboniso Mbhele to urgently visit the site and to engage with other staff members, who were still traumatized.

After meeting with the office management and staff, HoD Mbhele said the department will look closely at the issue of improving security in our offices and urged the police to move with speed in arresting the suspects.

"Our staff are in fear after this incident. This will affect the morale and seriously impact on service delivery. The cruelty by these criminals against female security officers is unacceptable. Crime against women must be condemned by all of us, worse during such a critical campaign of no violence against women and children. We appeal to the police to activate a high-level investigating team and soon bring these heartless criminals to book. We are also addressing the security improvement in our premises to protect staff and our equipment. We appeal to members of the community to work with the police in reporting anyone who is selling departmental equipment," said Mbhele.

Mbhele also said that the department has arranged for psycho-social services to assist the staff members at the centre to be able to continue with their daily duties.

The Department within eThekweni has been subject of a criminal syndicate, attacking staff members at gunpoint, stealing brush cutters and other equipment. In another incident a departmental grader was recovered in Camperdown.

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