



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Media Advisory

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KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT CONCERNED AT THE ESCALATING INCIDENTS OF CRIMINALITY TARGETING DEPARTMENTAL STAFF IN EQUIPMENT IN SERVICE DELIVERY PROJECTS.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has expressed concern at the alarming rate of crime targeting departmental employees who are working in various service delivery projects.

There are several incidents that have occurred around the areas of uMzinyathi in eThekweni, where staff members have been hijacked and state vehicles taken at gun point.

The latest incident was reported yesterday (Tuesday, 22 August 2023) around P100 in uMzinyathi. The staff members were held at gunpoint, with their lives being threatened by criminals, who are enemies of service delivery.

This is the second incident to happen in a few weeks as some of the staff members, on the same road, were victimized by criminals, who took away their brush cutters.

Such equipment is essential in maintaining road infrastructure projects.

The ongoing acts of criminality will not only impact on the pace of service delivery but will instill fear to staff members working in these communities.

The Department has since engaged with the law enforcement agencies to pay close attention to the levels of crime on P100 and other roads, where the lives of our staff is in danger.

Commenting in the wake of the latest incident, the Head of Department, Siboniso Mbhele, called on community structures, including ward committees, izinduna, councilors and amakhosi to work together in protecting the properties of the equipment and staff members.

"We urge communities to stand up and expose the criminals who are targeting departmental properties and staff members. This is impacting negatively to service delivery and we need to work with all stakeholders to protect our employees. If staff are working in fear, this will delay service delivery. We are, however, concerned that there seems to be a well-orchestrated syndicate operating on this road and we appeal to law enforcement to investigate and arrest the perpetrators. Whilst there are no lives lost in two incidents, we would however wish to see these criminals arrested sooner than later," said Mbhele.

The Department has also encouraged its staff members to be vigilant when operating in such areas.



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The Department is currently engaged in number of repairs of projects mostly those that were affected by floods.

This work is ongoing and the department through Operation Siyazenzela has deployed its plant and personnel to attend to those projects.

Ends/

Issued by the Department of Transport in KwaZulu - Natal