



**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**

**11 July 2023**

#### **MEC SIPHO HLOMUKA WELCOMES THE DECISION TO ASSIGN A HIGH-LEVEL POLICE TEAM TO INVESTIGATE N3 TRUCKS AS MORE INCIDENTS ARE REPORTED IN THE PROVINCE**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka, has welcomed the decision by the police to assign a high-level crack team to investigate the torching of trucks and incidents of economic sabotage on the N3.

The decision by the Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi to assemble this crack team follows the weekend's incident where six trucks were burnt down on the N3 in Van Reenen Pass.

Two more trucks were attacked and torched on the N2 in Empangeni.

The incidents have sparked serious outrage in the industry as there are reports that suspects were armed, forced the drivers out and started setting the trucks alight.

These trucks were carrying goods amounting to millions of Rands.

Government strongly believes that these incidents are part of economic sabotage and stronger interventions are needed to protect the strategic routes which are transporting essential goods and linking various provinces.

MEC Hlomuka has since directed all structures within the KwaZulu-Natal Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS), including municipalities to ensure integrated response in dealing the torching of trucks.

He has also reached out to other role players within the sector to work with the police and government in ensuring an end to such incidents.

"The decision to assemble a high-level police team is welcomed. Government is of a view that such acts of criminality must be dealt with decisively and with greater speed."

"These incidents are undermining the progress we are making in achieving economic recovery as a province. Sabotaging the economy will result in job losses and unemployment. Efforts led by the police will continue with the work of monitoring and ensuring visibility on the strategic routes."

"We are calling on anyone with the information to work with the police in ensuring that perpetrators are brought to book. Working with the trucking industry we must join hands in beefing up security and monitoring of the trucks on highways. These must include the deployment of technology and other resources," said Hlomuka.

Ends/.