

Heavy Snow | Rescuing Stranded Motorists | KZN MEC for Transport making his way up N3 Route

Public and Media Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

21 September 2024

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: Following heavy snowfall, we have deployed our efficient and hardworking team of officers from the Road Traffic Inspectorate to assist motorists.

We are encouraged by the hard work and partnership between private and public emergency rescue services, who are assisting stranded motorists on various routes affected by the snow.

I am currently en route along the N3 to ensure we strengthen coordination between the intervention teams from Pietermaritzburg and Ladysmith regions.

From approximately 10:00 to 11:30, I will be stationed near the Mandela Capture Site in Howick, together with the team from the Road Traffic Inspectorate.

The team will begin clearing the accumulated snow using the most appropriate snowplow blade.

These are the realities of erratic weather patterns caused by climate change. Every year, we witness extreme heat followed by heavy rains, and now heavy snow.

As the Department, we are paying close attention to the following key routes in KwaZulu-Natal, which remain closed due to heavy snowfall, ice, and rain:

- N3 Toll Route from Estcourt in KwaZulu-Natal to Harrismith
- N3 Harrismith to Tugela Toll
- R74 (Harrismith to Bergville)
- R74 Greytown/Colenso Road is closed due to heavy snowfall at Santa Maria
- R617 (Kokstad to Underberg)
- Tugela Plaza
- R103
- N3 North
- N11 - Ladysmith to Newcastle
- N11 Amajuba Pass

The R33 from Vryheid to Dundee remains open, but there is water pooling on the road at Cotswold. The R34 from Newcastle to Blood River/Vryheid is now open, with snow along the route.

The R33 from Vryheid to Paulpietersburg and the R34 from Vryheid to Melmoth remain open.

The N2 Ingeli and the N3 in Mooi River are under close observation.

We request motorists not to attempt to use alternative routes, as conditions on the roads are hazardous. Please stay at home.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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