



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

State of Readiness Snowfall along the N3 | Media briefing at 15h00 on Road Safety Measures

29 September 2024

We wish to welcome media practitioners that are here today.

We extend our greetings to journalists, radio and tv presenters, producers, news readers and all social media content creators.

Importantly, we wish to greet viewers in various parts of the province and the country.

This morning we issued a statement indicating that in view of today's grumpy weather, we decided to do a final test of our road safety plans before the snowfall.

We continue to receive updates from SA Weather Services.

Just after 12 o'clock, the SA Weather Services updated a yellow level 4 warning and a new orange level 5 warning for disruptive snow valid for Monday. They singled out the Western and Northern Cape.

As Transport we continue to be guided by the weather services.

We pointed out this morning that we regard the light snowfall as extremely dangerous and fatal.

We state this because it greases up the roads, which leads to road accidents.

Our view is that South African drivers are not trained to drive in the snow.

We therefore urge motorists to reschedule or postpone their journeys in anticipation of any eventuality.

We reiterate our position that prevention is better than cure.

Since this morning, I have been on the ground and interacting with our highly efficient team.

I am satisfied with the level of preparedness and commitment to serve the nation.

At this stage, we wish to indicate that our plans are watertight. We are ready any weather pattern.



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My confidence is based on the fact that we have harmonized different plans involving the KZN Road Traffic Inspectorate, the N3 Toll Concession, Free State Provincial Traffic and National Traffic Police.

We are ready to ensure immediate assistance to stranded motorists.

As indicated, we will also ensure the diversion of traffic should the weather conditions deteriorate.

At this stage, I wish to highlight the importance of the visibility of Traffic Officers and possible closures of the following routes:

- N3 Van Reenen Pass to Tugela Plaza.
- Tugela Plaza to Bergville;
- N11 Bergville interchange to Volksrust;
- Estcourt to Mooi Toll Plaza;
- Mooi Toll Plaza to Howick;
- R617 Underberg to Swartberg;
- R617 Swartberg to Kokstad;
- R74 Muden Road;
- R33 Pomeroy to Dundee
- Montrose to Van Reenen Village.

Salt and Brine Application

We also wish to highlight the use of Salt and Brine Application.

This will be applied to the roads as part of reducing the adhesion of snow and ice to road surfaces.

Drivers of Motor graders: Transport Infrastructure Unit- Drivers of Motor Graders

Another aspect that we wish to highlight is that of the team from Transport Infrastructure Unit and our dedicated Drivers of Motor Graders.

The skills of our drivers of motor graders have been sharpened to respond with speed and a sense of urgency. As they done excellently last week, they will remove any snow before accumulating on the road.

Graders and a TLB are stationed in identified routes to ensure that our response is faster. I have inspected this yellow fleet and I remain satisfied.

Transport Month Activities

At this stage, I wish to announce that on Tuesday, we will start the rollout of Transport Month Activities.

We have road safety campaigns that will heighten awareness about our unprecedented programme of action in response to Climate Change.



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Throughout the month of October and beyond, we will engage with Amakhosi, NGOs, Religious leaders, Academics and other key stakeholders. We will target the transport sector, logistics, port users and retailers.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we extend our deepest appreciation to the Acting CEO of the Premier Soccer League Ms Mato Madlala, PSL Chair Dr Irvan Khoza and the entire Board and management.

They committed to work with us to ensure the safety of soccer fans who will be coming into the province this weekend for the MTN 8 Final between Orlando Pirates and Stellenbosch FC.

Our view is that this is not a "simple soccer final". It is the most enduring national gathering of the people of this country with rich history that dates back to 1972.

We want our roads to be safe for soccer fans, the media, sponsors and other road users scheduled to visit the Province.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

Ndabezinhle Sibiyi | 082 375 4742 | Spokesperson | MEC for Transport and Human Settlements