

N3 Route cleared finally | Road users to commence their trips tomorrow | Special tribute to the hard-working teams as we Inspire Hope for Better Future

Public and media statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

22 September 2024

N3 - KwaZulu-Natal Province: Over the past few days, civil servants placed their skills and energy at the disposal of the nation as they worked flat out clearing the snow that accumulated along the N3.

From day one, the priority has been to enable disaster management teams to bring much needed relief to the trapped motorists, truck and bus drivers, but more importantly, to save passengers that included learners.

We wish to confirm that finally, there is free movement of traffic, especially around Tugela Plaza and Harrismith, where many people remained trapped for 2 days.

This effectively means that the hard-working team has cleared the backlog of traffic between KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State provinces.

Our efficient and hardworking team of officers from Road Traffic Inspectorate will continue to escort trucks and cars in the area.

In addition, our team from the Infrastructure Unit will continue to clear the snow using motor graders.

Importantly, in our consultation with the N3 Toll Concession (N3TC), we agreed that road users must only commence their trips tomorrow, 23 September 2024.

We pay tribute to the private sector, non-governmental organizations, individuals and farmers that worked together to bring much needed relief.

We salute all categories of staff across all spheres of government who worked tirelessly to ensure road safety.

Over the past few days, we demonstrated that collectively, we have the ability to Inspire Hope for a Better future.

Finally, the challenges of the past few days compels us to steam ahead with the development and modernization of other modes of transport, especially rail transport, both freight and passenger.

As the Department, we offer to be decisive in ensuring that facilitate greater mobility and access for all the people of our province to different modes of transport.

Critically, there is an urgent need to improve rail services in the province so that it could serve as the backbone for the movement of goods, while we recognize the importance of freight, especially trucking companies.

We urge members of the public to comply with weather warnings. Prevention is better than cure.

Ends.

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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