

11 trucks impounded by RTI for traffic rules violations, some with worn-out tyres: Duma warns that imported cheap tyres and worn-out tyres are behind some of the horrific road crashes involving trucks on the N3 and announces crackdown by RTI and Operation Shanela

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

26 July 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: The Road Traffic Inspectorate in Pietermaritzburg impounded 11 trucks following an intelligence-driven execution of the #NenzaniLaEzweni Operation.

The operation, which began at the crack of dawn, targeted certain freight companies that deliberately operate at night to avoid detection.

RTI found trucks with worn-out tyres, without transport permits, with fraudulent roadworthiness certificates, and others with cargo that exceeded standard legal size or weight thresholds.

In particular, we have taken a decision to be firm against trucks that are using worn-out tyres. As we stated in the past, prevention is better than cure.

Worn-out tyres lack the necessary tread to maintain grip, making them prone to skidding, especially on wet surfaces.

In addition, without adequate tread, tyres require more time and distance to bring a heavy truck to a complete stop, which is particularly hazardous in emergency situations. We have seen horrific accidents involving trucks that claimed lives along the N3.

Critically, we will be working with leading tyre manufacturing industry role-players to ensure that we have a collective plan to respond to the influx of international cheap and illegal tyres.

This forms part of our reconfiguration of our road safety campaign which is led by the Head of the Department, Zibusiso Dlamini, as we announced during the presentation of our Budget Speech.

The situation is getting out of control in KwaZulu-Natal.

These tyres, which are no longer used in other countries, have found a market here.

They are not only hazardous and unsafe for use, but they are also not designed for our road networks.

We remind freight companies and motorists that all tyres for use on passenger and commercial vehicles, including trailers, must conform to the South African Bureau of Standards' compulsory specifications for road safety.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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