

Guardrail Mafia members behind essential infrastructure crimes have appeared in KwaDukuza Magistrates Court, and the bail application has been postponed to the 23rd of September, 2026: Duma is encouraged by the giant leap towards dismantling the guardrail mafia. The department's specialized security team, SAPS detective —Organized Crime Unit and prosecutor assigned by NPA will use intervening days to close all legal gaps to ensure successful prosecution.

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

19 August 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: Today, two suspects who were arrested in connection with the removal and theft of guardrails appeared in KwaDukuza Magistrates Court today. The formal bail application was postponed to the 23rd of September, 2026.

This will enable the defence lawyer to consult the clients, take instructions, and evaluate media broadcast applications from the South African Broadcasting Corporation and Eyewitness News. It is for this reason we are unable to identify the suspects.

Critically, during the intervening days, the Department's specialized security team, SAPS detectives—Organized Crime Unit—and prosecutor assigned by NPA will close all legal gaps to ensure successful prosecution.

The team is undertaking more work to link the accused to more cases of the theft of guardrails across all corners of the province and other provinces.

By and large, we have made a giant leap towards the dismantling of the Guardrail Mafia.

The two suspects, who appeared in court, and another suspect are facing charges of theft and tampering with critical infrastructure.

The suspects have violated the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act 2019 and contravened section 3 (1)(a) of the Criminal Matters Amendment Act 18 of 2015, read with section 51(2) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 105 of 1997.

As stated on Monday, we are now using the Presidential Proclamation to undertake more investigations to determine any link between the Guardrail Mafia and employees of the Department of Transport. In particular, it will enable us to integrate more resources and skills from teams representing Hawks, the Special Investigative Unit, and Asset Forfeiture Units. This integration will help us to eradicate essential infrastructure crimes within the construction sector.

Finally, we welcome tips-off and messages from patriotic South Africans across the country.

We must unite against this tiny minority that is not only looting taxpayers' money but is also behind the economic sabotage.

They are the biggest threat to socio-economic development and service delivery in KwaZulu-Natal and the whole country.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements Enquiries

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