Guardrail mafia members made a brief court appearance today and were remanded in custody: Duma confident of a successful conviction and dismantling of one of the heartless criminal syndicates behind the removal of guardrails and the death of innocent road users

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

26 October 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: Through our intelligence-driven #NenzaniLaEzweni Operation we have begun the patriotic assignment of suffocating one of the largest and heartless criminal syndicates that is behind the death of innocent people.

Today, two members of the Guardrail mafia, who were arrested for removing guardrails, appeared in the KwaDukuza Magistrates Court for bail applications. At this stage, we are unable to name them and to show their faces.

The matter was postponed to the 10th November 2026 after their lawyer requested more time to consult them.

For our part as the Departments of Transport and Human Settlements, we express our appreciation to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development of South Africa, Mmamoloko Kubayi, for deploying a hard-working team from the National Prosecuting Authority.

NPA is working with an efficient detective, members of the Organized Crime Unit, and our young and energetic Specialized Security departmental team.

On the 10th November, we will oppose a bail application under Section 60 of the Criminal Procedure Act. We will demonstrate that releasing the accused won't be in the interest of road users.

The removal of guardrails and their absence leaves cars vulnerable to violent crashes that have resulted in the death of innocent people.

As part of safety measures, guardrails and their end terminals are engineered to absorb kinetic energy created by a moving and speeding vehicle along the freeway.

Over the years, more than R500 million has been invested through the erection and maintenance of guardrails in more than 34 000 kilometers of our road networks across the province.

We are confident of a successful conviction because we collected sufficient evidence and closed all legal gaps.

In addition, we pointed out in the past that we are considering using the Presidential Proclamation.

We want to bring in the Special Investigation Unit to investigate any possible links between members of the Guardrail Mafia and staff members within the Department.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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