Port delays and truck congestion along the N3, N2, N11 and other major routes receiving attention: Duma worried about the snowball effects of delays of imported goods. The pressure to move freight quickly creates a high-risk environment that directly drives truck accidents, especially on the N3 and N2.

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

19 November 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We have just finished a planning meeting convened to strengthen our road safety and traffic management plans as we approach the festive season.

Critically, flowing from calls and complaints from freight and logistics companies, we reflected on the backlog at the Durban Port Terminal which is spilling over onto major routes such as N3, N2, and others.

This matter came under discussion during Transport Indaba held on the 2nd October and opened by Transport Minister, Barbara Creecy.

It is true that in recent months, we observed port efficiency. But sadly, with challenges facing ICTSI, the new private company from the Philippines, we have noted delays at the Durban Gateway Terminal. This has caused truck congestion along major routes.

We are encouraged by interventions spearheaded by Minister Creecy.

For our part as the Department, we have taken a decision to deploy more Road Traffic Inspectorate and Operation Shanela teams to manage traffic and ensure road safety for road users.

While we also welcome Transnet's efforts aimed at resolving the backlog, through the coordination of terminal operations involving shipping lines, customers, and other stakeholders, we are worried about the snowball effects of delays of imported goods.

High order volumes across the retail and freight sectors, and efforts to satisfy consumers, will cause demand for the transportation of goods by trucks.

The pressure to move freight quickly creates a high-risk environment that directly drives truck accidents, especially on the N3 and N2.

This is therefore a period that demands an integrated approach involving all key stakeholders.

We commit to working with eThekwini, Umhlathuze, Umsunduzi, other municipalities along the coast, and other key state agencies and stakeholders.

In this regard, we welcome the announcement by the Richards Bay Port Terminal Manager on Tuesday that in the next 48 hours, no additional trucks should be dispatched from the mines to the port.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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