



## transport

Department:  
Transport

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



## community safety & liaison

Department:  
Community Safety and Liaison  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



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# Kaunda firm on radical economic transformation



Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mxolisi Kaunda says that during his first 100 days in office he has realised how his departmental programmes can help fast-track radical economic transformation.

Photo: Thami Mkhulisa

**One of my fundamental imperatives is to drive radical economic transformation - Kaunda**

### SIBONGISENI THABETHE

THE KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has declared radical economic transformation as an overarching theme to define his term of office.

Reflecting on his first 100 days in office and his vision moving forward, Kaunda said that KwaZulu-Natal still needed to transform economically, to “ensure equal access to business opportunities for all citizens”.

“It has become a common practice

for new public representatives to give a self-assessment of their performance and reflect on the progress made during the first 100 days in office. While 100 days may be too short a period to meaningfully assess the effectiveness of any newly elected leader, it does provide the first opportunity to reflect on the direction the department will take,” said Kaunda.

“My appointment as new MEC coincided with the local government elections, I had to hit the ground

running, leading service delivery programmes while also ensuring that there was peace and stability before and during elections.” He explained. “One of my goals in the new portfolio, is to first inspire and rally the entire citizenry behind the concept of radical economic transformation so that no one is left out.

“The response I have received from various stakeholders that I have since engaged, including our communities in rural areas, showed that citizens want to see fast-tracked eco-

nomical transformation,” said Kaunda. To this end, his focus has been to develop the department’s Radical Economic Transformation Strategy, which would be launched next month, once it has been approved by the provincial executive. As part of his economic transformation drive, Kaunda has already engaged the taxi industry, which he believes should play a role in the transformation of the subsidised bus services.

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## Roads and bridges upgrades programme intensifies



A sod turning ceremony was performed to mark the beginning of roads upgrade in Bilanyoni Township, eDumbe.

Photo: Thami Mkhulisa

### **NONHLANHLA NDWANDWE AND MSIZI ZULU**

WITH only 100 days in office, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has brought hope and joy to rural communities across the province with millions of rands invested towards road infrastructure upgrades.

Kaunda visited several communities to launch new roads and bridges construction projects, an intermodal

public transport facility and a brand new licensing office.

Among communities visited by Kaunda were Peacetown in Ladysmith, Eshowe, iNkandla, eDumbe, eMsinga and Dannhauser.

The investment in roads infrastructure upgrades in rural and under-developed communities is aimed at bridging the inequality gap in society, creating jobs and addressing poverty.

Thousands of employment opportunities have, and are being created for local people as part of infrastructure development set to benefit through the construction of roads and bridges. The department records an average of 41 000 jobs created annually through its Expanded Public Works Programme.

“Our mandate is to provide roads infrastructure that contributes towards the improvement of the

quality of life of citizens, especially those in rural communities. It is also our commitment to maintain existing infrastructure because it is critical to economic growth and continued productivity,” said Kaunda.

***It is also our commitment to maintain existing infrastructure because it is critical to economic growth and continued productivity***

During his visit to Ladysmith, Kaunda announced that R219 million will be invested in upgrade P187 in Blou-bank and D1524 in Peacetown.

The community of KwaKhoza, near Eshowe, will benefit from the upgrade of D135 to tar, which will receive an investment of R306

million. The road serves as a link between eShowe, eMpangeni and Richards Bay.

Kaunda also went to Nkandla to launch the construction of P706, also an investment in excess of R300 million.

“It is a great pleasure for me to witness the beginning of the upgrade of P706, because when I was still chairperson of the Transport Portfolio Committee, I came to Nkandla to inspect the old Nsuzi Bridge which had collapsed. Today, there is a new, state-of-the-art Nsuzi River Bridge, and the entire road (P706) will now be upgraded to tar. That is real development, which our government, which is led by the African National Congress, is bringing to the people, to improve their lives for the better,” said Kaunda.

## ALBINISM AWARENESS



MEC Kaunda has joined the fight against abuse of people with albinism.

Photo: Thami Mkhulisa

## Road Safety remains top of the agenda for Kaunda

### **SITHEMBILE LUTHULI**

SAFETY on the road remains top of the agenda for the MEC of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, as the department continues to place greater emphasis on road safety awareness campaigns.

Drivers were the first to witness Kaunda’s commitment during a major road block, which was held in Mariannahill Toll Plaza ahead of the Vodacom Durban July weekend. Roadblocks play a significant role in reducing road carnages, and create awareness especially during peak seasons of high traffic volumes.

**It saddens me to see more people becoming victims of road crashes, which means that we need to be more vigilant on the road**

Kaunda also conducted a major roadblock ahead of the annual Umkhosi woMhlanga (Reed Dance) to ensure the safety of thousands of maidens by conducting inspections in all the buses and taxis used.

“We all have a role to play in reducing road crashes and fatalities. But we can only achieve this by being cautious at all times and scaling up our road safety education and awareness campaigns,” said Kaunda.



MEC Kaunda with Minister of Transport Dipuo Peters during a roadblock in Mariannahill Toll Plaza.

Photo: Thami Mkhulisa

Kaunda has, however, expressed sadness following the loss of lives on provincial roads since his assumed office. These include the horrific crashes in Jozini which claimed seven lives; in Harding which killed 11 people and Highflats, which killed seven people.

“It saddens me to see more people becoming victims of road crashes,

which means that we need to be more vigilant on the road,” said Kaunda.

One of the campaigns is Siyabakhumbula, which was held in Enseleni to remember road crash victims. Among those remembered was the late UThungulu District Mayor Thulani Mashaba who lost his life in a car crash on the N2 near Ballito last

year July. He was remembered for his role in uplifting his community. Kaunda also indicated that his department is in the process of fast-tracking the process of upgrading rural roads so that there is easier access for public transport in order to eradicate the use of bakkies, many of which are unroadworthy.

“The law makes it clear that it is illegal to use bakkies to carry passengers for profit. That is why we are working to resolve this challenge by upgrading rural roads to allow easier access for safe and reliable public transport modes,” concludes Kaunda.

**“Road Safety Is Our Collective Responsibility.”**



## Local emerging contractors to see economic benefits



MEC Mxolisi Kaunda outlines a clear vision on radical economic transformation programme.

Photo: Thami Mkhulisa

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“We wish to improve the participation of African-owned companies in our subsidised public transport services, because we believe that the taxi industry must be a major shareholder in the industry that moves citizens to and from areas of social and economic activities,”

he said. Kaunda said he was also in engagements with the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Sihle Zikalala, to further explore economic opportunities the taxi industry could leverage on to ensure broader participation in the economy. “Our transport infrastructure programme

is going to be the main focus of our radical economic transformation strategy,” said Kaunda. During the month of July alone, we announced a multi-million rands investment in about six road projects around the province. “As a matter of principle going forward, we want to ensure that

local emerging contractors registered within the Vukuzakhe Emerging Contractor Programme of the department also benefit from these and other projects. Construction material must also be purchased from the local suppliers,” said Kaunda.

**Our transport infrastructure programme is going to be the main focus of our radical economic transformation strategy**

## Kaunda prioritises taxi industry peace, stability and growth



taxi operators as part of increasing their participation in the mainstream economy. It remained critical to have a taxi industry free from conflict and violence.

**We believe that the taxi industry must take full advantage of this opportunity for expansion**

“We do not want to see the resurgence of violence in this province. It is important that taxi operators adhere to the law and operate legally. It is also crucial that the industry ensures that their taxis are roadworthy and have operating licenses to avoid having their taxis impounded by our

traffic officers,” said Kaunda. Among the issues that were raised by SANTACO through its Provincial Chairperson, Mr. Boy Zondi, include the slow pace in issuing operating licences. He urged the department to fast-track this process as the industry is growing rapidly. Zondi also said they were looking forward to working together with Kaunda to take the industry to a higher level. Kaunda has also attended the KZN Taxi and Commuter Corporation (KZNTCC) graduation ceremony at the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) to congratulate members of the taxi industry for completing their training programme. The training and development programme is aimed at improving safety and quality of transport services for commuters.

The leadership of the taxi industry has also met MEC Kaunda to discuss issues of stability and growth in the public transport industry.

Photo: Zingisa Hlathi

**MABUYI MKARRY**

THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is committed ensuring peace, stability and growth of the taxi industry in the province.

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, said that there was notable, real progress made to bring about lasting peace and stability in the historically conflict prone industry.

Speaking at a meeting with the provincial executive leadership of the South African National Taxi Coun-

cil (SANTACO) in Durban recently, Kaunda said collaboration between the department and the industry was crucial to address the challenges faced by the taxi industry.

Kaunda called on the taxi industry to play an active role in the subsidised bus services industry as part of their growth and the department’s economic transformation programme.

“We believe that the taxi industry must take full advantage of this opportunity for expansion. I am aware that one of the major challenges

that the taxi industry has been experiencing is the lack of support from financial institutions. However, I believe that if the taxi industry were to work as a collective and jointly approach financial institutions, then they would successfully obtain financial support from funding institutions,” said Kaunda.

On his part, Kaunda said he will engage with the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Sihle Zikalala, to explore other possible ways to assist

## PLOUGHING BACK



MEC Kaunda planting a tree during the public service week at a school in KwaNongoma.

Photo: Thami Mkhulisa

**“Road Safety Is Our Collective Responsibility.”**



# Kaunda underlines centrality of communities in crime fighting

**We have made significant progress in dealing with conflicts in Durban hostels.**

**SINDISWA ZIKHALI**

POLICE have a Constitutional obligation to fight crime, serve and protect citizens, but communities themselves have to be on the forefront of the war against crime to create a safer KwaZulu-Natal.

This has been the central message of the Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC, Mxolisi Kaunda, in his interaction and engagement with communities in his first 100 days in office.

In the past three months, Kaunda has interacted with various communities urging them to work with the police in the fight against crime and to be on the forefront of the war against crime.

He has launched community crime fighting structures, spent time with families in distress after losing their loved ones and celebrated successes of peace building initiatives.

The highlights of these initiatives include the launch of safety community structures in Phongolo, the celebration of the successful brokering of



MEC Mxolisi Kaunda was joined by leadership from various structures to ensure peace and stability at KwaZulu-Natal hostels.

Photo: Thami Mkhulisa

peace and cleansing ceremony in KwaNobela, Hluhluwe, and the signing of a peace pledge ending conflict in Glebelands Hostel.

“We have confidence on our programmes to resolve conflict in the province. We have made significant progress in dealing with conflicts in Durban hostels. Just before elections, we signed a peace pledge to end conflict in Glebelands,” said

Kaunda. “I am encouraged to report that elections in all hostels in the province went on peacefully. This is, indeed, an important building bloc for peace and stability in KwaZulu-Natal,” said Kaunda. “Equally, we are intensifying our efforts to build a united front against crime by setting up community crime fighting

structures,” he said. “We hold the view that all sections of our society have a role to play in this regard, which implies the need to consolidate partnerships in the fight against crime. After all, the war against crime is a collective responsibility and police will only be able to fulfil their constitutional mandate to serve and protect the citizens of South Africa if we work together”,

said Kaunda. In the fight against crime, said Kaunda, it is important that the society addresses social ills. “A multi-sectoral approach will continue to be strengthened, while rooting out firearms, alcohol and illegal drugs will be rigorously targeted as part of the overall crime prevention strategy,” concluded Kaunda.

# MEC Kaunda sets the tone for the respect of law



Kaunda says that police will act decisively to ensure there is law and order.

Photo: Thami Mkhulisa

**SINDISWA ZIKHALI**

THE first 100 days in office for the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, have been a hive of activity mainly characterised by setting the tone for respect of laws as laid out in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The cumulative effect of Kaunda’s engagement have been to ensure that KwaZulu-Natal is renowned for the respect of law and people’s human rights.

Kaunda used his first meeting with the senior police management to underline this point, focusing on his concerns about the illegal and

violent protests. He said the police would act decisively to ensure there is law and order as well as protect people’s lives and property. Equally, Kaunda has also adopted a no-nonsense approach to the destruction of public and private property, adding that the emerging

trend is unacceptable and should be punished without fear or favour.

**KwaZulu-Natal is turning the corner on conflict and violence towards peace and stability as well as political maturity and co-existence**

The speedy arrest of suspects in the case of the burning of government’s property in uMshwathi Local Municipality was a case in point. In the same vein, Kaunda has urged political leaders not to use inflammatory language that

would increase political tensions, emphasising the need for cooperation to maintain peace and stability in the province.

“KwaZulu-Natal is turning the corner on conflict and violence towards peace and stability as well as political maturity and co-existence. For this, we wish to thank all the people of KwaZulu-Natal, including the law enforcement agencies, political parties and a the Independent Electoral Commission, for ensuring that the province delivered peaceful, free and fair elections,” said Kaunda.

## OPERATION SUKUMA SAKHE



MEC Kaunda pictured with delighted recipients of care packages at Mdumiseni High School inclusive of school uniforms, shoes and sanitary towels.

Photo: Zingisa Hlathi

**“Building a united front against crime.”**