

Statement Of The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Council Held On The 29th Of July 2020

TO ALL NEWS EDITORS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29 JULY 2020

STATEMENT OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29th of JULY 2020

The Provincial Executive Council of KwaZulu-Natal, chaired by Hon. Premier Mr Sihle Zikalala, held its virtual ordinary meeting on Wednesday, 29 July 2020. During the meeting, the Provincial Executive Council reflected on a number of current issues impacting on the state of the province.

KZN PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONDEMNS THE LATEST KILLING RELATED TO THE KWAMBUYAZI TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP DISPUTE

The Provincial Executive Council has strongly condemned the recent senseless killing of induna Judea Mbuyazi, which is believed to be related to the ongoing dispute in the KwaMbuyazi Traditional Community.

Mr Judea Mbuyazi was gunned down in KwaMbonambi near Richard's Bay yesterday.

The Provincial Executive Council noted with extreme concern that the latest incident follows that of Meshack Mbuyazi, who was killed in December last year, shortly after attending a meeting of stakeholders to try and end the impasse in the KwaMbuyazi traditional area.

Such acts of violence are not only dastardly and barbaric, as they undermine the innate and Constitutionally-protected right to life; but they also carry the potential to plunge the affected area into economic instability and turmoil – a situation we can ill-afford at such an economically volatile time.

The Provincial Executive Council appeals for calm and resolution of disputes through peaceful means rather than through the barrel of a gun.

The Provincial Executive Council will continue with efforts spear-headed by Honourable Premier Sihle Zikalala to find a solution and lasting peace in the Mbuyazi area.

The Executive Council urges the task team set up by KZN Premier Zikalala early this year to get to the bottom of the dispute and urgently come up with a workable solution.

The Provincial Cabinet extends heartfelt condolences to the Mbuyazi family, and further resolved to send the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC, Bheki Ntuli to visit the bereaved family to convey condolences on behalf of the KZN Provincial Government.

The Provincial Executive Council has also urged law-enforcement agencies to move with speed to investigate and apprehend those behind this latest senseless murder.

POLLUTION INCIDENT FROM NEW ENGLAND ROAD LANDFILL SITE IN MSUNDUZI

The Provincial Executive Council has welcomed a report that informs us that smog from the fire at the New England Road Landfill site in Msunduzi, which polluted the entire area and posed a serious health risk to the residents, has been put under control.

The Executive Council, would like to extend its sincerest apology to all the residents whose lives were affected by this serious health hazard.

The Executive Council has tasked the Departments of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, MEC Champion, to present a sustainable waste management plan that will ensure that this incident does not recur in future.

In the same vein, the Executive Council tasked the Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, MEC Bheki Ntuli to investigate allegations that sabotage may have been behind the fire at the landfill site, and that if those allegations are substantiated those behind this dastardly act be brought to book and prosecuted.

This work will include following up on criminal cases lodged during the first incident.

The Executive Council reiterates its position those who put the lives of the people at risk should account for their actions.

COVID -19 INFECTIONS AMONG PUBLIC SERVANTS

The Executive Council received a report on the impact of Covid-19 among Public Service Employees within the KZN Provincial Government.

The Executive Council noted with apprehension that the infection rate among public servants is rising at an alarming rate.

While Public Servants are members of society and are also impacted by every situation within the community, the Executive Council believes that the health and well-being of public servants is vital as they form the first line of support in the fight against Covid-19.

The Executive Council noted that 3933 public servants have reported positive cases, and that 59 have sadly passed away.

The Executive Council extend condolences to all the families of those who have passed away and further calls on all members of society to continue to wage the battle and never to be fatigued in fighting the coronavirus through washing of hands with soap, regular sanitizing, social distancing, avoiding gatherings, and regular wearing of face masks, among other weapons.

Government will continue to implement measures that will ensure that employees are not exposed to contracting the virus within the workplace.

CALL FOR ACTION TO END TO RECENT TAXI VIOLENCE

The Executive Council received a report from the MEC of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, MEC Bheki Ntuli, regarding the ongoing violence, unrest and instability in the Ndwedwe and District Taxi Association.

The Executive Council noted with concern the ongoing violence in which six murders, including two commuters, and 17 attempted murder incidents linked to the Ndwedwe and District Taxi Association have occurred in recent months.

The Executive Council directed MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr Bheki Ntuli and the South African Police Service to act decisively and drastically to ensure that innocent lives are protected, especially commuters who continue to bear the brunt of taxi violence.

INSTABILITY IN THE ROAD FREIGHT SECTOR

The Executive Council received a report from the task team dealing with issues of instability within the Road Freight Industry.

The Executive Council noted with concern the resurgence of incidents of violence within the road freight industry, which is allegedly linked to xenophobic vigilantism.

The Executive Council noted that in the month of July alone, about 16 incidents related to truck shutdown were reported in the province. Half of these incidents happened within eThekweni Metro.

The Provincial Executive Council has directed that the task team continue to engage with all parties to ensure that the issues affecting this industry be resolved as a matter of urgency.

The Executive Council remains resolute in its stance that acts of criminality will not constitute part of negotiations; and has therefore directed that the law enforcement agencies including the South African Police Services, and Rapid Response Unit be mobilised deal with these incidents.

LAUNCH OF WOMEN'S MONTH IN THE PROVINCE

KZN Premier Honourable Sihle Zikalala will launch Women's Month in the Province on Friday.

The Provincial Executive Council has noted that women have borne the most brunt of ailments and social ills during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from many women being at the forefront of the fight against this new invisible enemy which has wreaked havoc in our communities and severely affected our country's economy, they have also suffered immensely as a result of retrenchments because of Covid-19 as many are in charge of their households.

And most worryingly, many women have also been at the receiving end of the scourge of gender-based violence which has increased dramatically during the national lockdown due to the Coronavirus epidemic.

The Provincial Executive Council has urged every citizen of the province to use the period of Women's Month to intensify the fight against the scourge of gender-based violence which is diametrically-opposed to the gains we have achieved as a country since the dawn of democracy 26 years ago.

ISSUED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF KWAZULU-NATAL

For more information contact:

KZN Provincial Government Spokesperson
Lennox Mabaso
082 884 2403

OR

Bongani Mthethwa
KZN Premier Media Liaison
083 253 0748