



AmaKhosi in uMfolozi Municipality welcome the mobile police station to fight crime in their communities

Mbuso Kunene

# Mobile police station to curb crime

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HORRIFYING cases of murder and rape have prompted the donation of a mobile police station to assist KwaMbonambi SAPS in fighting crime.

Donated by the KZN Community Safety and Liaison Department on Monday, the unit will be rotated to assist with policing in rural areas of KwaSokhulu, KwaMbuyazi, KwaMthethwa and Mambuka.

KwaMbonambi Police Station has made headlines for all the wrong reasons recently - including a delayed police response to a call out following the discovery of a body in eMakhwezini.

uMfolozi Municipality has been identified as a gender-based violence and femicide (GBV-F) hotspot, with KwaSokhulu, KwaMthethwa and Slovo named high-risk areas by the Empangeni FCS unit.

Speaking at the handover, uMfolozi Mayor Xolani Bhengu noted that residents were having to travel far to open cases - an expense many could ill afford.

"We hope this will assist us greatly, as we have only one police station in KwaMbonambi, servicing far-flung communities," said Bhengu.

Acting district commissioner for King Cetshwayo, Brigadier Mandla Mhlongo said this initiative originated from community dissatisfaction about service shortcomings, including the absence of a police station in rural areas.



The mobile police station is expected to criss-cross uMfolozi Municipality

During the handover, the head of ministry, Vuyani Mbese, said fighting crime was at the heart of KZN Premier Thami Ntuli's agenda.

"You are lucky to have a municipal mayor of this calibre who constantly bombards the premier with your concerns about the ever-escalating crime in this area," said Mbese.

"The premier learnt about a recent incident, which unfortunately occurred less than a week after his crime prevention imbizo at Inkosi Mangosuthu Sports Ground in this municipality."

AmaKhosi present at the handover

included tribal leaders from KwaMbonambi, Sokhulu, Mthethwa and Mambuka.

Speaking on their behalf, iNkosi Mduduzeni Mthethwa said, "I want to thank the premier.

It is the first time since I took the throne that government has promised something and delivered. What will make this crime-fighting effort successful is that we work together."

Mthethwa further urged that appointed CPF members be introduced to all traditional authority councils within uMfolozi so as to be verified accordingly.



The raw sewage is contaminating lake Mzingazi and the canal



Raw sewage causes a stink alongside people's homes

# Odour **outrage** at Arboretum

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Arboretum's plight not unique

For years, Birdwood residents living along the edge of the lake area at the East Central Arterial bridge leading to Mandlazini have battled burst sewerage pipes and inadequate pumps.

Various city interventions have achieved little, and homeowners in Honeysuckle in particular have simply had to put up with the stench of overflowing sewage, which flows into Lake Mzingazi - the source of the city's

drinking water.

And between Bizola Bridge and the Mondi robots adjacent to the John Ross highway at Alton, the smell of sewage assaults the nostrils daily - another no-fix problem that has been ongoing for years.

# Richards Bay port road upgrade nears completion

Gugu Myeni

THE upgrading of Newark Road, one of the Port of Richards Bay's most critical access routes, is expected to be completed in December.

This was confirmed by Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) last week, who stated the project is 75% complete.

Approximately R20-million has been invested in upgrading the road, which carries an estimated 67 289 light motor vehicles and 35 000 heavy vehicles per month.

One kilometre of the road has been successfully upgraded since the project began in May.

"This strategic investment will ensure the Port of Richards Bay continues to operate as a world-class logistics hub," said Richards Bay port manager Captain Dennis Mqadi.

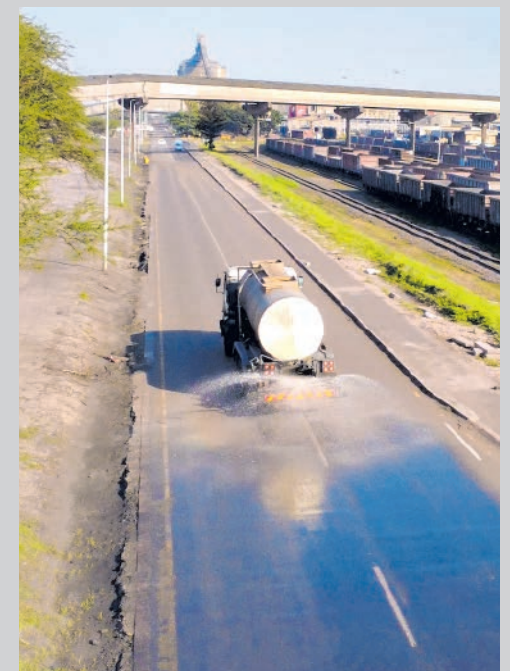
"We will continue to engage with port users on these project developments to ensure a smooth transition now and when the road upgrades are completed this festive season."

This is part of TNPA's ongoing efforts to modernise port infrastructure and enhance the safety and efficiency of cargo movement.

The road is temporarily closed to maintain safe port operations, with traffic diverted to alternative access routes.

During the repairs, the Bayvue port entrance remains closed, with light motor vehicles diverted to enter the port through Urania Road near the Pioneer Centre and exit through the San Thom Road Gate.

Heavy vehicles can access the port through West Gate on Urania Road, proceed to port terminals via Clinker Road, and exit through East Gate on Newark Road.



Newark Road upgrade to improve cargo movement at Richards Bay port

**TOURISM FILM**

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MEC for EDTEA - Reverend Musa Zondi

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We invite all South Africans to explore KZN, support local businesses, and celebrate the power of tourism to build a brighter, more resilient future.

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