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Title: Stakeholders gear up for festive season N4 traffic

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Stakeholders gear up for festive season N4 traffic

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KOMATIPOORT - As the festive season draws closer, heavy traffic is anticipated on the N4 towards the Lebombo Border Post.

In light of this, various stakeholders met at the Hervormde Kerk's hall on Monday, September 30, to come up with some measures on how to deal with the projected traffic volumes.

The meeting was attended by leaders of the Komatipoort and Hectorspruit business chambers, the Strydomblok Farmers Association, the Komatipoort Community Policing Forum (CPF), and representatives of the Mpumalanga Provincial Traffic Department and the Nkomazi Local Municipality (NLM).

Business for South Africa's Gerhard Marais was also invited into the meeting by the Komatipoort Business Chamber (KBC) to provide an update on the work of the National Logistics Crisis Committee.

"The meeting's purpose was to share information on the latest developments at a national level, so that all stakeholders are up to date and agree and co-ordinate local efforts more effectively. Hopes are high that a holding facility may become a reality within six months. A third party has committed funds for the creation of the



Stakeholders meet to discuss solutions for traffic congestion on the N4.

Photo: Supplied/Jan Engelbrecht

facility. The government departments involved in cementing this deal are the National Treasury, public works and home affairs, with the BMA [Border Management Authority] leading the process," said the KBC's Jan Engelbrecht.

According to him, it was also concluded in the meeting that the use of technology will also make things easier for the officials to manage the trucks.

"A project to ensure that no side tippers leave the mines if they do not already have a permit to proceed to port is already far advanced. Number plate recognition at critical points along the N4 route will be used to check compliance, and non-compliant vehicles will be turned back. This will help to reduce traffic congestion close to the border post. This is an important step in ensuring that all documents related to border clearances are moved to a digital platform. This process is being led by SARS and requires the close collaboration of all stakeholders, specifically the transport and freight forwarding companies," Engelbrecht said.

Traffic management on the N4 and in

Nkomazi N4-linked towns has become increasingly problematic over the past few years. This prompted the concerned groups to take measures in an attempt to address the issue. One of the attempts included a petition to the office of the presidency, which was signed and submitted last year.

"A multi-stakeholder WhatsApp group, Improve-Traffic N4, which includes a wide range of stakeholders from the private and public sectors as well as civil society organisations, is used effectively to share real time information on congestions, successes and failures on the N4. We are aware that the municipal and other infrastructural budgets are severely constrained, and this is further compounded by the cuts in municipal overtime. However, we must work carefully to ensure we are successful with what we have. The attendees at the meeting committed to further collaboration to ensure the best outcome for the N4 and affected towns.

"Monthly online meetings will be scheduled so all stakeholders remain informed of developments and engaged in the process," Engelbrecht concluded.

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