

MEDIA ALERT

DATE: 12 JULY 2006

MEC NKONYENI CONDEMNS SHOOTING AT NDWEDWE TAXI RANK

ACTING KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Ms. Peggy Nkonyeni has expressed her deepest shock after the shooting that took place at Indwedwe taxi rank yesterday (11/07/2006) morning. Presently five people including three taxi rank managers, one taxi owner as well as a passenger are reported to have been injured during the shooting.

According to the report, it is alleged that occupants in a red Toyota Corolla arrived at the Mzinyathi taxi rank and just opened fire leaving five people injured. It is also alleged that on the same day, two unknown occupants in a Ford Courier bakkie opened fire on another taxi that was passing-by, leaving an unknown number of people injured. Allegedly on the same morning, at Seme intersection where a number of taxis pass by, en-route to places such as Ebuhleni, Ndwedwe, Qadi and Thafamasi, a third taxi was shot at but luckily no one was injured.

"I totally condemn the killings of innocent people. My department, particularly the conflict resolution team will work tirelessly to ensure that this matter is speedily resolved. The innocent people who are from the Shembe Congregation are mostly the victims as this conflict usually takes place during their meeting in July each year," said Nkonyeni.

Nkonyeni urged taxi owners as well as taxi association representatives to sit down and resolve the matter to ensure that such attacks are minimized.

Ends.

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