



PRESS RELEASE

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KZN DOT MAKES BREAKTHROUGH IN PEACE TALKS AT THE KWANONGOMA TAXI VIOLENCE

In its commitment to a violent free public transport, the Department of Transport through its task team, led by Advocate Simo Chamane, has managed to bring peace and calm between conflicting members of the KwaNongoma Taxi Association. **MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele** has expressed jubilation and commended the members of the association for reaching a peace deal.

“We shall continue to defend the weak. We cannot afford to have a situation that leads to innocent people losing their lives. We will monitor the situation closely to ensure that operations are back to normal,” said Cele. According to Advocate Chamane the deliberations were fruitful and all parties involved showed willingness to reach a peace agreement. He further indicated that most of the challenges that the KwaNongoma Taxi Association was faced with were mainly operational and the Registrar’s office will assist the office of the General Manager of the association to settle these matters urgently.

Amongst the resolutions that were taken, it was agreed that safety at the taxi ranks should be prioritized and operators should not interfere with the operations at the taxi ranks. What also appeared to be a challenge was the compliance of certain members to the constitution of the association.

An agreement was reached to this effect that all members will comply with the policies of the association and equality should also prevail. A question of what they termed “**two positions**” which allegedly allows certain individual preference to operate two routes is also to be referred back to the General Meeting and the outcome thereof to be respected. It was also agreed that faction fighting and the incorporation of criminal elements should be stopped. To this effect, SAPS investigations relating to this violence will continue and perpetrators will be prosecuted.

ENDS

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