



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE : 05 SEPTEMBER 2008

MEC CELE CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF FORMER MPUMALANGA TAXI ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele strongly condemns the killing of former Mpumalanga Taxi Association Chairperson Mr. Maxwell Cele today (06/09/08) at approximately 14h00.

It is alleged that Mr. Cele was driving from his house in a Jetta and was accompanied by an unknown female passenger. Upon reaching a traffic circle in Section Three at Mpumalanga where the female companion was allegedly supposed to disembark, Mr. Cele disembarked to open the passenger door which allegedly could not open from the inside when a VW Polo stopped and shots which killed Mr. Cele were fired and the perpetrators fled the scene instantly. The whereabouts of the female who accompanied Mr. Cele are not yet known as she also fled the scene. The motive for this killing is not yet known, however taxi violence has not been ruled out.

The killing comes amid conflicts amongst members of the Mpumalanga Taxi Association which resulted in a series of killings. Interventions by MEC Cele and some community leaders resulted in a peace agreement being signed by conflicting members. One of the resolutions undertaken in the peace agreement was that the killings would come to an end and all the challenges would be resolved through a proper bilateral. A public meeting was called and all conflicting members took an undertaking in front of members of the community and vowed to stop the senseless killings.

"I wish to send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Maxwell Cele. Such senseless killings will not be tolerated and those responsible will face the full might of the law. I wish to indicate that should investigations reveal that the killings are taxi related, I will then have to act decisively and take harsh steps as there was an agreement in this regard. A team of investigators from the SAPS will work tirelessly to bring the perpetrators to book," said MEC Cele.

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