



MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 07 February 2008
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC CELE CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF TWO TAXI OWNERS NEAR WAYBANK

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele strongly condemns the killing of two taxi owners from the Claremont Taxi Association this morning (07/02/08) at approximately 07h30 am.

It is alleged that the two men were standing approximately one kilometer away from the Waybank rank when a drive-by car fired gun shots killing them instantly. The motive for this killing is not yet known but the SAPS are investigating the matter and at the time this message was sent no arrests were made.

It is however alleged that prior to the shooting at approximately 04h00 am, some operators from Claremont invaded the Wybank taxi rank to operate illegally and a dispute erupted. The SAPS and Metro Police were subsequently called to calm the situation. It is also suspected that the dispute between the two taxi associations could have resulted from an allegation that Claremont operators are operating illegally from the Wybank rank which is a designated rank for Wybank taxi operators.

“We strongly condemn the killing of the two taxi owners who were gruesomely shot by unknown gunmen. Police are up in arms to catch the perpetrators and they will face the strong arm of the law for this action. We also plead with those who have information that can lead to the arrest of these perpetrators to come forth and assist police to eradicate these people who are a menace to society and the growing taxi industry, said Cele”.

END
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