



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

**MEDIA ALERT**

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

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**MEC CELE CONDEMNS TAXI VIOLENCE IN MANDENI**

KWAZULU-NATAL Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mr. Bheki Cele has strongly condemned the shooting that took place this morning (07/07/2008) at the Renckens Spar taxi rank at Mandeni which resulted in four people being injured and two were airlifted to Umhlanga Hospital.

Preliminary reports have revealed that three vehicles opened fire at the Renckens Spar taxi rank specifically at the security guards which are employed by the Tugela Taxi Association. The shooting left two employees from the taxi violence security company seriously injured, one employee from the taxi rank and one bystander were also injured.

Two of the three vehicles were left on the scene and one of them had been stolen from Chatsworth. The third vehicle was found three kilometers away burnt and was stolen from Phoenix.

Further preliminary reports have revealed that the dispute within the Association dates back to 2003 and the situation had stabilized. However, the recent conflict resurfaced two weeks ago back over to dispute of who is to transport members of the community from the newly developed residential area of Hlomendleni.

**“Taxi shootings are an obvious act of being immature and irresponsible. Taxi ranks are a public faculty and are not a shooting game park. The Department will be very firm on law enforcement and we will do everything in our power to maintain law and order”.** said Cele.

**ENDS.**

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