



MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 21 July 2008
TO: ALL MEDIA
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS / REPORTERS

MEC CELE INTERVENES WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE MEGA-CITY TAXI CONFLICT

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has shown commitment in by instructing law enforcement (SAPS and the Public Transport Enforcement Unit) to be strengthened at Umlazi. This is subsequent to taxi operators conducting a demonstration to register their dissatisfaction thus created a huge traffic jam and prevented operations around the Mangosuthu Highway to run smoothly this morning (21/07/08).

It is alleged that the source of conflict is the operation around Megacity which is operated by five existing associations in Umlazi. It is alleged that Masakhe Okuhle which has a ranking stand at Megacity has recruited operators from the Durban Liner Association to Operate in the area and these members are said to require fees from other operator to before they can function on this route. Talk to come out with a long standing agreement will continue however law enforcement will be operating to deal with those who are encroaching in the operation in Umlazi.

"The disruptions on taxi operations that took place today are unacceptable as there are better ways of resolving problems without inconveniencing commuters and other road users. We will again not condone people to encroach on operations they are not suppose to be part of thus creating problems amongst other associations on their operations. The SAPS and PTEU will be deployed in the area to deal with those unlawful operators within the area. We will facilitate talks with all parties concerned to come up with a long standing solution" said Cele.

ENDS

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