

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT BETWEEN:

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON, WILLIES MCHUNU

AND

**THE LEADERSHIP OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL TRANSPORT ALLIANCE
(for immediate release)**

27 August, 2009

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Willies Mchunu has met with the KwaZulu-Natal Transport Alliance as part of his interaction with transport industry stakeholders. Mchunu has asked the Transport Alliance for “handholding” and “support” as he learns to understand the taxi industry challenges, prospects and its teething problems.

Mchunu said he wanted the sector to thrive and believes it can.

He added: “I believe in engagement. I will provide for many platforms for all of us to engage in-order to solve teething problems in this sector. My style of leadership is always to call for calm even in a situation that resembles a war zone.”

He further said: “I remain particularly perturbed by this sector’s volatility. As a matter of principle, the ANC led Provincial Government believes that working together, we can turn the tide. We want this crucial sector to thrive. In the same vein, we will not tolerate anarchy. Lives of our people are paramount, and no one should be allowed to kill and maim willy-nilly”.

“We are willing to work, support and hold your hand,” said KZN Transport Alliance, PRO Njabulo Nkomo.

Matters raised by the Alliance:

- Issuing of permits/operating licences,
- Taxi Violence & crime fighting in the industry,
- Business Development in the transport industry,
- Panel vans – converted into quantum’s,
- Request for the KZN Transport Alliance to be recognized as a stakeholder.

It was agreed:

- To work together for the benefit of the industry as a whole,
- To find innovative ways in dealing with the taxi violence as both parties agree that it has no place business environment,
- To beef up law enforcement measures to deal with crime and violence.

Major Proposal:

- The Alliance proposed that they be recognized as a partner in fighting crime including proper police training as reservists,
- A formation of an industry wide Task Team to jointly face up with the challenges facing the sector.

Mchunu undertook to apply his mind to the representations made by the Alliance. "I am glad you have agreed to work with us. Let us together face-up to the challenges that lie ahead. I am convinced that together we can do it. Once, I've applied my mind to all the issues you have raised, I make a commitment to continue our engagements with you and any other interested party. The Ministry is open for business." Mchunu said.

ISSUED BY THE MEDIA LIAISON & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORATE ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON.

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