



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 10/06/09

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRES

MEC CELE CONDEMNS THE RECENT SHOOTINGS OF MEMBERS OF THE MNR TAXI ASSOCIATION.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Bheki Cele strongly condemns the recent shootings of four members of the MNR Taxi Association in uMlazi, R-section near the fire station today (10/06/09) at approximately 12h00 midday.

It is alleged that unidentified men driving in an un-described Mercedes Benz and a Green Audi went to the offices of the MNR Taxi Association and fired shoots at four of the members who occupied three cars, two Toyota Corolas and a VW Fox which were parked outside where operators park their private cars. The SAPS preliminary reports have indicated that a large number of 9mm and AK-47 gun cartridges were found on the scene.

The incident left one person dead and three are receiving medical attention for gun shot wounds at a nearby hospital. The motive for this shooting is not yet known and the SAPS is investigating the matter. It has also been indicated that taxi violence amongst members of the association cannot be ruled out as a motive until investigations prove otherwise.

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It has been revealed that a meeting between the Department of Transport and the MNR Taxi Association was scheduled for tomorrow (11/06/09) to discuss and resolve the internal feuds amongst members of the association. This meeting was subsequent to a shooting incident two weeks ago which left three members of the MNR Taxi Association shot and preliminary reports revealed one person to have died during the shootings leaving two critically injured.

“We strongly condemn the recent shootings that left one person dead and three injured at uMlazi earlier today. Such barbaric behavior will not be tolerated and perpetrators will be hunted down and brought to book. We urge public transport operators to resolve their disputes on a round table and not with guns. We will act harshly with those who want to compromise the safety of our people,” said Cele.

ENDS

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