



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

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

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MEC MCHUNU CONDEMNS THE APPALLING ACTION BY KWANDENGEZI ASSOCIATION

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Willies Mchunu strongly condemns the appalling behavior by the members of kwaNdengezi taxi Association, in stopping the "uMbimbi" taxi and taking the law in their own hands.

"uMbimbi" have been allegedly known as the alliance that stops any taxi operations even long distances, if they do not have their stickers. It is also alleged that they demand a certain fee from operators and if they do not have it, they impound the taxi until the owner pay that particular fee. Preliminary reports have revealed that a taxi with this particular sticker which belongs to this alliance was spotted at kwaNdengezi. The members of the KwaNdengezi Association stopped and took the taxi to their offices.

Four arrests have been made, including one taxi owner and three security guards that were called by this owner. Two guns were found on the security guards. Cases of kidnapping, intimidation and police impersonation have been opened pending investigation. The four have been arrested at Kwa-Ndengezi Police station and they will appear in Pinetown court on Friday (17/12/2010).

The Department met with the uMbimbi Alliance last week and as part of the resolution it was agreed that they will stop what they have been doing because commuters have a right to choose whatever mode of transport they want, provided that they have the valid operating licenses.

"I strongly condemn such behavior. We always tell people not to take the law in their own hands. If there are burning issues in the taxi industries or if they are unhappy about any operation, the operators know very well that the Departments' door is always open to resolve such issues hence we met the uMbimbi Association last week. This could create unnecessary tension and instability in the industry and could pose potential threat to the lives of innocent lives," said Mchunu.

ENDS

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