



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 24 NOVEMBER 2010

MEC MCHUNU CONDEMNS THE DESPICABLE BEHAVIOR BY ILLEGAL TAXI OPERATORS

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu strongly condemns the despicable behavior by taxi operators who are deliberately violating the law by operating illegally from uMlazi Mega City to Gateway.

It is alleged that certain individuals are operating from uMlazi Mega City to Gateway, and this is a huge concern to the department because taxi operators are aware that the law does not allow operators to operate on a route without a valid operating license. What makes the situation worse is that there is no association in that area and these operators are just operating in a vacuum. This illegal operation has the potential of creating unnecessary instability in the industry and poses potential threats to the lives of commuters, since they are operating under no rules or regulations.

The Department is very concerned why these operators are deliberately breaking the law and operating illegally. The Public Transport Enforcement Unit (PTEU) has been deployed in the area to monitor the area and no arrests have been reported so far. The Department has also sent a high level delegation from the Public Regulatory Entity (PRE) to investigate operator's involved in this illegal act.

"We are appalled by the behavior of these operators. They know very well that they are violating the law, but they continue to do it anyway. Innocent lives will be put in danger as this is an illegal operation. We have not authorized any one or any association to use the routes in question. I want to also appeal to the community not to use this taxi's because they are putting their lives at risk. We have deployed our PTEU "Shanela" in the area to observe and arrest anyone who is operating without a valid operating license. Laws are put in place for a reason, and if anyone fails to abide with them will face the full might of the law and they will be dealt with accordingly," said Mchunu.

Ends

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