



MEDIA UPDATE

TO : ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES THE ARREST OF MPUMALANGA TAXI OPERATOR

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu has welcomed the arrest of the Mpumalanga taxi association prominent leader.

This operator (who can not be named before appearing in court tomorrow) is the former chairperson of the Mpumalanga taxi association, in Hammersdale and was arrested towards the end of the week for various allegations including conspiracy to murder.

Mchunu is also disappointed that there are some operators who are intimidating others and that has disturbed operations last week.

Mchunu is however calling for calm and has assured the safety of the commuters as police have been deployed in the area.

At the beginning of last month, Mchunu presented the findings of an investigation conducted over the dispute on two factions under the Mpumalanga taxi association.

It became clear on the findings that divisions between the two factions are deep and irreparable.

Part of the findings was to start a new process of forming the executive of the association and amending the constitution to be specific on how many taxis one operator should have.

Findings were also clear that illegal operators would be kicked out from the association and will not be allowed to apply for new operating rights or face the law.

“I welcome the arrest of one operator in the Mpumalanga taxi association. This shows that police are working very hard to deal with perpetrators of violence in the taxi industry. We are appealing for calm and appeal to everyone to respect the due processes of the law. I want to assure commuters that we have deployed police following the incident last week which disrupted operation. I also want to give a firm warning to those who disregard the rule of law and intimidate other operators that we will make sure that this industry is not ran with intimidation and threat of violence. We met with both factions of the Mpumalanga taxi association and presented to them a way forward to resolve their issues. We appeal to all of them to respect and follow that process,” said Mchunu.

Ends

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