



MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 7 December 2011
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MORE THAN 60 OPERATORS AND DRIVERS ARRESTED IN HAMMARDALE FOLLOWING A CONFRONTATION WITH THE POLICE

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, has expressed his disappointment at the confrontation between the police and the Mpumalanga and District association.

It is alleged that yesterday (6 December 2011) disgruntled operators intended to disrupt operations. Police received a tip off of the plan disruption.

Today (7 December 2011) when operators assembled police were already on the scene. The members of the associate then went and tried to confront the illegal operators and take over the route. Upon arrival the Provincial Taxi Task team then intercepted in order to prevent the confrontation between the legal operators and the illegal ones.

The police arrested more than 60 members from the association.

The Department of Transport is facilitating processes to resolve tensions among the two factions in the Mpumalanga Taxi association. In September MEC Mchunu presented findings and recommendations following an investigation conducted by the department to resolve dispute and normalize operations in the Mpumalanga Taxi association.

MEC Mchunu described today's event as unfortunate

“I am disappointed to hear that there was a confrontation between the operators and the police. Threats of violence and intimidation do not solve anything. We presented findings and resolutions and we expect both factions to comply and respect all due processes. Those who are not satisfied can approach the department with their grievances. We however want to assure commuters that we have deployed police in the area to monitor the situation.” said Mchunu.

Ends.

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