



MEDIA UPDATE

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 17 October 2011
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES CHARGES AGAINST FORMER MPUMALANGA TAXI ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN HLOPHE

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu has welcomed the decision by the Hammarsdale regional court to charge former Mpumalanga Taxi Association Mr Mbhekeni Hlophe.

Hlophe appeared briefly at Weber Magistrate Court, in Hammarsdale today (17 October 2011).

He was officially charged with two counts of conspiracy to murder and one of attempted murder.

Hlophe was arrested last week by the Police Taxi Tack Team and will again appear in court on the 26th of October 2011.

“I welcome the decision by Weber magistrate court. This is an indication that no one is above the law. We however appeal for calm and respect for the due processes of the law. We urge police to leave no stone unturned and to bring all perpetrators to book. Many people lost their lives in the Mpumalanga Taxi violence and we hope only through the court of law we can bring closure to victim’s families. The Department has shared findings on the investigations conducted to resolve disputes in the Mpumalanga taxi association. We appeal to all operators to comply with all these findings and to respect the process that we have started. I want to re-iterate that intimidation and threat of violence have no place in the Taxi industry”, said Mchunu.

Ends

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