



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 21/10/12

MCHUNU INTERVENES TO END TAXI VIOLENCE IN FOLWENI FOLLOWING THE KILLING OF SIX PEOPLE

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu intervened to end the on-going killing of taxi operators under the eFolweni Taxi Association.

Mchunu called an urgent meeting yesterday to engage with the Folweni Taxi Association, councillors and transport structures in the area.

It emerged in the meeting that 6 people including taxi operators, security personnel and a driver have been killed in the recent past.

The meeting also noted with concern the burning of two taxis belonging to operators under the Folweni Taxi association. On Friday a Folweni taxi driver was killed and burnt at uMlazi, U section.

This led to all the Folweni drivers suspending operations over the weekend, fearing for their safety.

Following Mchunu's intervention it was agreed that operations will resume today and police committed in monitoring the situation and to ensure high police visibility in the area.

"When I met with the association on Friday, I was briefed on what is believed to be the root cause of the problem within the association. I then called another meeting with the local leadership and transport structures in the area. We are now working as a collective in finding solutions to these killings. We all agreed that in the interest of the commuters, operations must resume."

"We welcome the commitment by the police to ensure high visibility and in investigating all cases of killings happening in the Folweni Taxi association. We condemn violence that has claimed lives of people in taxi industry. As government we are working very hard to crack down the hired assassins industry (iziNkabi) in the taxi business. We cannot have people who make money by committing crime and by depriving others rights to life," said Mchunu.

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