



MEDIA INVITE

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 4 April 2012
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU DISTURBED BY THE DEATH OF TAXI DRIVER IN TONGAAT

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu has expressed concerned on the death of Sthembiso Ngcobo a taxi driver in Tongaat.

It is alleged that yesterday (3 April 2012) at about 05h30; Ngcobo was gunned down by unknown men who soon after fled the scene of the crime. He died on scene.

Ngcobo's killing is subsequent to taxi dispute in the Siqalakahle association in Tongaat.

MEC Mchunu sent a delegation from public transport to engage the association in a bid to resolve the dispute. It emerged in the meeting that a member, Bongani Mthembu was suspended by the association two years ago. That suspension was set aside by the court last Friday.

On Monday it is reported that Mthembu resumed operations and other operators then boycotted operation contesting Mthembu's re-instatement as a member. Following the intervention by the department, police and special operations (Shanela) are deployed to monitor the situation.

Mchunu appealed for calm and peace as we are approaching the Easter weekend.

"This instability is unnecessary. Worse it is going to negatively affect the commuters who are relying on taxis as we approach the Easter weekend. I condemn

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the killing of Ngcobo and police are going to leave no stone unturned in investigating this matter. There is no space for violence and intimidation in the taxi industry. The progress made in planting seeds of peace in the industry can not be reversed by unruly operators. I would like to send my condolences to the Ngcobo family”, said Mchunu.

Ends

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