



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 08/01/13

MCHUNU VOWED TO RESOLVE FOLWENI TAXI DESPITES FOLLOWING THE BRUTAL KILLING OF YET ANOTHER TAXI OPERATOR

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu has vowed to find long lasting solutions to the on-going taxi violence in Folweni, south of Durban.

Mchunu's comment came after he learnt of yet another shooting and killing of a local taxi operator this morning (08/01/13).

Mchunu expressed concern at the prevailing situation in this association as more than five operators have been killed in the recent past.

He described the latest killing as unacceptable and a cause for unnecessary unrest in the taxi industry.

Last year Mchunu met with the leadership of the Folweni taxi association, the local transport structures and councilors to uncover the truth behind the killings of taxi operators in the area.

Media Liaison & Public Relations Directorate

Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 Republic of South Africa
Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Republic of South Africa
Tel: (27) (33) 355 8624 Fax: (27) (33) 355 8632
Internet: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za/home.htm>

He re-iterated that it is only through negotiations and peaceful engagement that disputes can be resolved and settled.

According to the police report, Sthembiso Sithole was killed in the early hours of this morning when an unknown vehicle opened fire.

Another occupant in Sithole's car sustained serious head injuries.

"I condemn this incident. It is unfortunate that operators are subjected to such kinds of ambush. This is unacceptable and causes instability in the taxi industry. Our view is that negotiated peace settlements are the only solutions to violence and disputes. I appeal for calm at the Folweni taxi association. I am however confident that police will work around the clock to find perpetrators of this crime. I would like to send my condolences to the Sithole family and wish a speedy recovery to the occupant who sustained injuries," said Mchunu.

Mchunu also revealed that a team from Public Transport Enforcement Unit (PTEU) has been deployed to work with the police in monitoring the situation in the area.

Parallel to the law enforcement deployment is the interventions and engagements with various role players which will continue with a view of finding peace and stability in the area.

Ends

Contact – Kwanele Ncalane
072 803 1462/ 0766995755

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