

MCHUNU WELCOMES THE DECISION TO RESUME TAXI OPERATIONS IN KWADUKUZA

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu welcomes the decision by the KwaDukuza Taxi Association to resume operations at KwaDukuza, saying this is in the best interest of the commuters.

After two days of extensive engagement between the MEC and the leadership of the KwaDukuza Taxi Association, a decision was taken that all parties are going to work together to normalize public transport service in the area.

After robust and thorough engagement between the Department and taxi operators, the leadership of the association notified the Department that it was now resuming operations.

This ends weeks of suffering where commuters had to travel long distances to work and other destinations by alternative means.

During the meeting MEC expressed sharply his disappointment at the decision by the association to suspend taxi operations, saying this could have been avoided.

MEC Mchunu also deemed it necessary to clarify to the leadership of the association the progress that has been made in addressing the issue of operating licences.

It was clear that the Department has done all that was required to in order to expedite the issuing of operating licences, however it was acknowledged in the meeting that all relevant documentation for the processing of operating licenses had not been submitted to the Department.

The leadership of the association committed to working with the Department in addressing all areas of confusion regarding this process.

Last week the people of Greater KwaDukuza barricaded roads, burning tyres and demanding that an alternative transport be introduced in the area. After Mchunu's intervention the community suspended the protest.

"I welcome the decision by the association to resume operations. There was no need in the first place to withdraw this important service. Whatever issues the taxi industry has must be resolved through engaging the Department but not pushing commuters. At the meeting we shared with them a report on the work that has been done by the Department regarding operating licences. We want to assure the people of Greater KwaDukuza that as government we will do all we can to normalize public transport service," said Mchunu.

Tomorrow (13/05/2013) Mchunu, together with the leadership of KwaDukuza Municipality, will visit the area of Ntshawini, eThembeni and Groutville to report to the community on their request to have bus operation in the area.

Ends

Media are invited to attend these community meetings.

Time : 11h00

Venue : Ntshawini Sport Ground (first interaction)

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