



transport
Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

Street Address: 172 Burger Street,
Pietermaritzburg, 3200
Postal Address: Private Bag X9043,
Pietermaritzburg, 3200
Tel: (27)(33) 355 8664
Cell: 072803146 / 0796995755
Fax: (27)(33) 355 8632
Email: Kwanele.Ncalane@Kzntransport.gov.za
Website: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za>

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS/ REPORTERS AND PR WIRES

MEC WILLIES MCHUNU CALLS FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY FOLLOWING SHOOTING INCIDENT INVOLVING KWADUKUZA AND KWAMAPHUMULO TAXI ASSOCIATIONS

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has called for increased commitment to maintaining peace and stability following the shooting incident involving security companies contracted to KwaDukuza and KwaMaphumulo taxi associations.

MEC Mchunu received disturbing reports this week that a shooting ensued between security guards employed by these two rival associations.

One taxi driver, according to the police, sustained gun-shot wounds and no other casualties were reported.

It is believed the latest confrontation is over a route dispute between Stanger and Danral.

Immediately after the incident, MEC Mchunu assigned a team from the department's Public Transport unit to engage the two associations.

“The meeting was part of resolving this matter and ensuring that we proactively work together to prevent any loss of lives. We will continue engaging all the affected parties in a dialogue to resolve this dispute. We strongly condemn incidents of violence,” said Mchunu.

The two associations have in the past been embroiled in bitter tensions and violence which resulted in the loss of lives of innocent commuters and operators.

Recently the Department of Transport started facilitating discussions relating to operating permits for both KwaDukuza and KwaMaphumulo taxi associations.

This has since culminated in the signing of the Operational Agreement between the department and the two associations aimed at stabilising operations in the Greater iLembe region.

“We have clear processes of normalising operations in the Greater iLembe region. Anyone using violent tactics is violating the agreed protocol. We condemn violence in the strongest terms. However, I wish to assure the commuters that police have been deployed to monitor the situation in the area,” said MEC Mchunu.

Ends.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kwanele Ncalane: 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755 Kwanele.Ncalane@Kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi: 081 018 0518/ 082 565 0205 Nathi.Sukazi@Kzntransport.gov.za

Website: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za>

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport