



transport

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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC WILLIES MCHUNU CAUTIONS TAXI OPERATORS AGAINST BEING USED TO PURSUE POLITICAL AGENDA FOLLOWING A MARCH IN DURBAN

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has cautioned taxi operators against being used to pursue political agendas following a march in Durban today.

The KwaZulu-Natal Transport Alliance embarked on a march directed at the eThekweni Metropolitan municipality.

Among issues raised by the KZN Taxi Alliance, is a call for MEC Mchunu to step down from his responsibilities and complaints on the issuing of taxi operating permits.

"This administration has not even finished one month in office and you already have people calling on the MEC to step down. The logical conclusion we can reach is that, this is nothing but politicking. This also happened a few weeks after the KZN Taxi Alliance dismally failed in their campaign to secure a seat in the Legislature during the last national and provincial elections. We urge all taxi operators to be careful against being used to advance political agendas," said Mchunu.

MEC Mchunu also insisted that all issues raised in the memorandum were not new and were dealt with when the same organisation had a "violent" protest last year.

"In 2013 we convened the provincial taxi indaba and addressed all the issues relating to stabilising the taxi industry, including some of the concerns raised by operators. We are now moving with speed to address the resolutions of the Indaba. We are also opening new offices in five district municipalities to decentralise the issuing of operating licences," adds Mchunu.

He also expressed satisfaction at the level of planning by security agencies in ensuring that there were no disruptions and violence during this march.

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