



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL MEDIA  
DATE TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2014  
ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR/EDITORS, PR WIRES

#### **MEC WILLIES MCHUNU PONDERES DECLARING TAXI RANKS GUN-FREE ZONES**

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, today announced that government is exploring declaring taxi ranks gun-free zones.

Mchunu announced the consideration by the provincial government at a mass meeting today with the KwaMaphumulo taxi operators.

The meeting was triggered by the recent shooting at the KwaDukuza taxi rank which left seven people, including four commuters wounded.

Addressing the meeting, Mchunu announced that government has launched a clean-up operation to root out illegal operators and the use of illegal security guards.

"This clean-up operation started during the weekend and we impounded eight vehicles belonging to illegal operators in KwaMaphumulo. In the same operation, police also arrested three security guards who are alleged to be involved in last week's shooting. Moreover, three fire arms and 180 live rounds of ammunition were confiscated during the operation. All the fire arms will now be taken for ballistics. This is clear evidence that we are paying attention to the problems of violence and instability in KwaDukuza and KwaMaphumulo," said MEC Mchunu.

The Department of Transport has been engaged in a marathon process with KwaMaphumulo taxi association, trying to resolve their in-fighting relating to the dispute over the association's executive.

Last week, Mchunu met with the executive where it was agreed that illegal operators have no place in the industry.

In today's meeting Mchunu also shared with the taxi operators the content of the Cooperation Agreement which is a guiding framework, approved by the Provincial Executive Council - to eliminate lawlessness in the taxi industry and ensure taxi associations started working professionally.

The agreement, among other, entails regulating the collection of money at taxi ranks, auditing of financial statements, imposing conditions to security companies to work with the police, and approaching courts to interdict illegal taxi operators.

"This agreement is by far the most effective solution to your problems and it must be implemented immediately. It will bring order and stability to your operations and thus deal harshly with illegal taxi operators. It will also help us put a complete stop to the shootings and killings in the taxi industry in this area," said MEC Mchunu.

The Department and the association signed the Cooperation Agreement as an indication to work together to normalise operations in the industry.

Ends.

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