



transport

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Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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MEC WILLIES MCHUNU SIGNS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, ANNOUNCES MASSIVE AUDIT OF NEWCASTLE TAXI ASSOCIATIONS

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, today signed a cooperation agreement with five associations operating in the Greater Newcastle Area to address disputes over routes and safeguard the lives of taxi operators and commuters.

Mchunu met with operators under the five associations operating in the area to outline Government's intervention to resolve taxi unrest in the area.

The five taxi associations operating in the Greater Newcastle area are Madadeni, Sizwe, Masihambisane, Osizweni and Osizweni-Utrecht and Boundaries.

Mchunu's visit to Newcastle follows a series of meetings with the leadership of all five associations to resolve tensions and violence that broke out in the area in recent months.

More than five operators have been killed in the recent months and incidents of random shooting at the taxi rank were reported in the past few weeks.

As a result, Mchunu moved to introduce drastic measures to normalise operations in Newcastle, which consists mainly of the following:

- Introduction of an independent facilitator to evaluate all records of the five associations to verify the legitimacy of members;
- Auditing financial management systems of the associations;
- Ensuring that the Municipality plays a leading role in ensuring that there is proper management and control systems for the rank that is used by the associations;
- Vetting of the security companies that are employed by the taxi associations to provide services to associations at the rank and outside; and
- Ensuring that the SAPS effectively deal with crime at the rank.

"We cannot continue to have an industry that is a law unto themselves. These interventions are aimed at ensuring that operations are normalised and bring an end to violence. We have agreed with all of the affected associations that, we will be going to court to interdict illegal operators. We will leave no stone unturned in uncovering the root cause of problems among associations operating in Newcastle, so that we can have a stable and growing taxi industry," said MEC Mchunu.

Ends.

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