



transport

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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 30 January 2014
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

MEC MCHUNU DISTURBED BY YET ANOTHER KILLING IN THE TAXI INDUSTRY

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, is disturbed to have learnt of the killing of a taxi driver in the Mpophomeni area.

Yesterday (29 January 2014) in Mashingeni, at about 17h00, Mr. Sandile Zuma was driving his taxi carrying two female passengers when he was stopped to pick up an unknown would-be male passenger. Upon entering the taxi, the unknown man is reported to have fired gunshots at Zuma, who was killed instantly. The two female passengers fled the scene unharmed.

"It is disturbing to hear of the killing of Mr. Zuma in Mpophomeni, which follows other as yet unexplained killings in the taxi industry recently. Although at this stage we have not been able to link these killings to violence within the industry, we have noted that there were tensions in the area between Zimeleni taxi association and the people who call themselves Ibhodwe. According to our records Ibhodwe is not a registered taxi association, however since we have not yet concluded investigations it would be premature to point fingers and say this incident is linked to the known tensions. The police are still investigating this matter. Should these killings continue, they have a potential to undo all the great work we have achieved of stabilising the taxi industry, which is why all our efforts with the police are geared towards stopping them as a matter of urgency. On behalf of

government, I would like to send my deepest condolences to the Zuma family,”
said Mchunu.

Mchunu also appealed to the community to come forward with any information they might have regarding this incident so that perpetrators can be brought to book.

Ends.

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