



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Thursday, 30 OCTOBER 2014
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS, EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU EXPRESSED CONCERNS AT THE INCREASING INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AT INANDA TAXI ASSOCIATION FOLLOWING THE KILLING OF TWO OPERATORS

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu has expressed concerns at the increasing incidents of attacks and murder of taxi operators under Inanda Taxi Association.

MEC Mchunu was commenting in the wake of the shooting this morning, where a taxi operator (Mr. Mkhwanazi) belonging to Inanda Taxi Association was shot and wounded on the N2 this morning.

A female passenger in the car died following the shooting while the taxi operator is reportedly fighting for his life in hospital.

Early this week (Tuesday), another taxi operator (Mr. Maphumulo) was shot and killed while driving with his wife on M-25.

This year a team from the Department of Transport was sent to engage the Inanda Taxi Association following reports of divisions and threat to operators. At that time, it was revealed that the main source of the problem was over access and control of money within the association. After this intervention by the Department of Transport and Santaco, the situation subsided and operations continued normally.

MEC Mchunu described the recent incidents as senseless and unwarranted.

"We condemn these senseless killings of operators and their relatives. There is no dispute that cannot be resolved peacefully. We have assigned a team to engage with both the association and the leadership of Santaco in the region to assist in finding solutions to their problems. We have now introduced a cooperation agreement with all taxi associations engulfed by problems, which seeks to restore peace, stability and good, accountable governance in the administrative affairs of taxi associations. The SAPS will work with speed to ensure that perpetrators of violence are brought to book. We would like to send our condolences to the families that have lost their loved ones in this conflict," said MEC Mchunu.

Ends

Media contacts:

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

Nathi Sukazi 081 018 0518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport