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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA ALERT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Thursday, 14 March 2014
ATTENTION: Editors, New Editors and PR Wires

MEC MCHUNU AND MANDENI TAXI ASSOCIATION SIGN GROUND-BREAKING AGREEMENT TO END ILLEGAL TAXI OPERATIONS AND LAWLESSNESS

Mandeni– [Today, 14 March 2014](#) - MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu signed a ground-breaking cooperation agreement with the Mandeni-Sundumbili taxi association to end illegal taxi operations and lawlessness.

This agreement will see the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport and Mandeni-Sundumbili taxi association working together to end violence and killings of operators in the area thus ensuring that only legal operators are operating in the area.

MEC Mchunu also announced that the Department of Transport will embark on a thorough audit to verify all members operating under Mandeni-Sundumbili taxi association. This process seeks to clean the membership record of the association and to verify the legitimacy of operators operating under this association.

MEC Mchunu was addressing hundreds of members under Mandeni-Sundumbili taxi association today in a bid to resolve disputes and violence among operators.

Recently, a woman operator was shot and burnt beyond recognition and her husband was shot and killed whilst on his way to investigate the reported commotion at his house in Mandeni. The murders are believed to be linked to the recently surfaced taxi violence in the area.

MEC Mchunu who was accompanied by eMandeni Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Sphesihle Zulu, vowed to end violence in Mandeni.

"This agreement is historic indeed as it seeks to end violence and lawlessness in this area. We are now entering another phase in the life of Mandeni taxi association. We want to clean all the records of this association and to ensure that all operators working here are legitimate. We are preparing to go to court with the legitimate members of the association to interdict all illegal operators," said Mchunu.

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MEC Mchunu said the killing of operators was unacceptable and Government will do all it can to bring about peace and stability in the industry.

Last year, MEC Mchunu had a meeting with operators of the same association after incidents of violence were reported.

“This agreement will ensure that we all work together in the interest of stabilising the industry within the parameters of the law and protect those operators that are operating legally against those that insist on violating the law. This cooperation agreement will set another milestone in the industry,” said Mchunu.

Ends.

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