



transport

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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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MCHUNU SAYS KWAZULU-NATAL TAXI INDUSTRY HAS STABILISED

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, says the KwaZulu-Natal taxi industry has broadly stabilised over the past five years.

Speaking at the Annual General Meeting of the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) of KwaZulu-Natal, in Port Shepstone, on Thursday, MEC Mchunu said apart from minor incidents in Mandeni and Newcastle the taxi industry had formalised into a reliable business industry.

"Generally, the taxi industry in KwaZulu-Natal has stabilised. We have taxi associations which have never had problems before and some that have managed to resolve their problems amicably. Therefore we have a good story to tell in this province," said Mchunu.

Mchunu said only a few associations are currently experiencing problems but his Department was working flat-out to ensure stability.

Out of 249 associations in KwaZulu-Natal, less than 12 were highlighted as having tensions and isolated incidents of killings.

Mchunu also used the SANTACO AGM to challenge the leadership of the taxi industry to robustly engage on improving their financial management to better manage their businesses.

He also challenged SANTACO to relook at the hiring of private security companies during times of conflict and the utilisation of private security companies.

"I am challenging you to seriously discuss the issue of the private security companies. You must look at their role in problems that are prevailing in the taxi industry. Perhaps we should debate if government should not play a role in hiring of security companies to ensure that your security is not compromised. In terms of the money that is collected by the leadership of associations; you must look at what impact it has to the challenges facing the industry," urged Mchunu.

Mchunu added that over the past 20 years, government has made tremendous strides in transforming the taxi industry and the formation of SANTACO is part of the key milestones.

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