



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

Street Address: 172 Burger Street,  
Pietermaritzburg, 3200

Postal Address: Private Bag X9043,  
Pietermaritzburg, 3200

Tel: (27)(33) 355 8664

Fax: (27)(33) 355 8632

Website: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za>

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: 05 March 2014  
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors and PR Wires

### **MEC MCHUNU INTERVENES TO RESOLVE TAXI VIOLENCE IN NEWCASTLE**

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, has stepped-in to resolve violence among taxi associations operating in the Greater Newcastle area.

Yesterday 04/03/2014, Mchunu met with the leadership of four associations operating in Newcastle in a bid to find solutions to end the tensions.

The intervention by MEC Mchunu was triggered by a series of incidents of assault, attempted murder and murder of taxi operators.

Recently, a shooting ensued at the Newcastle taxi rank leaving four taxi drivers wounded. It is believed the tensions formed because of disputes over taxi routes.

The four associations are Masihambisane Bara Buffalo Flats, Madadeni, Osizweni Utrecht and Boundaries and Sizwe.

Mchunu appealed for calm and restraint, saying anyone causing instability in the taxi industry was reversing the industry peace and stability gains made in the past 20 years.

"I'm disheartened to hear of the shooting that left four people wounded. These shootings have the potential to destabilise the industry and thereby undermine the industry peace and stability we have painstakingly achieved in last 20 years," said Mchunu.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Kwanele Ncalane: 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755  
Nathi Sukazi: 081 018 0518/ 082 565 0205  
Website: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za>  
Twitter: @KZNTransport  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kzntransport](http://www.facebook.com/kzntransport)

[Kwanele.Ncalane@Kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Kwanele.Ncalane@Kzntransport.gov.za)  
[Nathi.Sukazi@Kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Nathi.Sukazi@Kzntransport.gov.za)

*prosperity through mobility*

"As government we urge taxi associations to always work with us to find amicable solutions to the challenges they face and issues of potential conflict, instead of resorting to violence, which leads to a lose-lose situation for everyone. We would also like to wish a speedy recovery to those who were wounded," said Mchunu.

MEC Mchunu further assured commuters that the South African Police Service and members of the department's Shanela unit have been deployed to ensure that safety of the public is not compromised.

Next week Mchunu will have a follow up a meeting with all the affected associations where he will announce the way forward regarding the operations in Newcastle.

Ends.

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Kwanele Ncalane: 072 803 1462/ 079 699 5755  
Nathi Sukazi: 081 018 0518/ 082 565 0205  
Website: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za>  
Twitter: @KZNTransport  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kzntransport](http://www.facebook.com/kzntransport)

[Kwanele.Ncalane@Kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Kwanele.Ncalane@Kzntransport.gov.za)  
[Nathi.Sukazi@Kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Nathi.Sukazi@Kzntransport.gov.za)

*prosperity through mobility'*