



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 15 July 2015
ATTENTION: EDITORS/ NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRES

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PLANS TO SHUT DOWN KWAMAPHUMULO TAXI RANK SHOULD INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE ESCALATE

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, today announced plans by government to shut down the KwaMaphumulo taxi rank should the security situation continue to deteriorate.

MEC Mchunu today briefed the councillors of KwaMaphumulo and KwaDukuza following the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Council's endorsement of tough measures to intensify security measures in the area. The latest interventions by government to stabilise the taxi industry in KwaMaphumulo follow recent attacks and burning of three taxis.

Mchunu announced that government had already issued the public notice declaring its intention to shut down the taxi rank, should incidents of violence continue to occur.

Another key decision approved by the Cabinet, is to authorise the Department of Transport and KwaMaphumulo Municipality to take control of the taxi rank and introduce the rank management system. "The decision I am announcing today has been approved by the Cabinet and we are now ready to shut down the taxi rank should incidents of violence continue to happen. We are introducing serious measures to end taxi conflict in the area. Taxi ranks are public places and ensuring safety of commuters' lives is a priority for us," said Mchunu.

As part of the interventions, there is going to be an evaluation of the functioning of KwaMaphumulo police station and all taxi related cases will be referred to a special team of detectives for investigation.

MEC Mchunu also urged all councillors to engage communities on their role to report those who are perpetrators of violence in the taxi industry.

During the latest shooting at the taxi rank a few weeks ago, a Boston college student, Nondumiso Goqo (22), was critically injured and subsequently hospitalised.

Mchunu visited her family and conveyed the message of sympathy. Goqo is one of the lucky survivors of the taxi related conflict, which has already claimed scores of people's lives in the province.

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

