



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: Tuesday, 2 June 2015  
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS, EDITORS AND PR WIRES

#### **MEC MCHUNU OFFICIATES SIGNING OF AGREEMENT BY PORT SHEPSTONE TAXI ASSOCIATES TO END VIOLENCE**

**UGU DISTRICT** – KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, presided over the signing of a cooperation agreement to restore peace and stability in Port Shepstone's taxi operations today, (Tuesday, 2 June 2015).

The agreement between four taxi associations – Zamokuhle, Bambanani, Gamalakhe and Nyandezulu – operating in the Port Shepstone area, is aimed at ensuring that only taxis will legal permits operate going forward.

This agreement comes after the area has been plagued by conflict arising out of illegal operations and tensions which resulted in the stoning of vehicles and acts of intimidation.

In a meeting attended by the local Hibiscus Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Cynthia Mqwebu, councilors, leadership of SANTACO, executives and members of associations, and members of the public, Mchunu warned that those seeking to continue operating illegally will be dealt with harshly through law enforcement.

The main source of conflict has been the use of the Margate to Durban route, largely by the local Bambanani and long distance Zamokuhle taxi associations.

In addition, other local associations namely Gamalakhe and Nyandezulu are fighting over the Marine Drive route between Port Shepstone and Margate.

The Cooperation Agreement, which is signed by all four, will assist associations to operate within the legal framework and ensure that their operations are profitable.

In addition, an Operational Agreement signed between Bambanani, Gamalakhe and Nyandezulu, will regulate operations on the Marine Drive, which is a common route.

"With the signing of the Cooperation and Operational agreements, we are seeking to restore peace and stability in the taxi industry in Port Shepstone. We are also enforcing the law, which must be respected by all citizens of this country," said Mchunu.

“Working with the municipality, the departments of Transport, and Community Safety and Liaison, the leadership of SANTACO as well as associations, will restore normalcy in the taxi operations, ensuring that commuters enjoy a safe and efficient public transport. Moreover, taxi rank security will be beefed up with the introduction of access control including physical security guards, rank permits, recognition stickers, number plate recognition cameras, and perimeter fencing,” he explained.

He added that working with SANTACO, the membership of taxi associations will be cleaned up to promote legal operations and financial accountability of taxi associations’ administrations improved.

Ends.

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