



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors and PR Wires

MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES MOVES TO ENDING LADYSMITH PUBLIC PROTESTS

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has welcomed stakeholders' agreement to end public protests related to increases of taxi fares in Ladysmith.

This follows suspension of the implementation of new taxi fare increases, which had flared up public protests last Saturday, and saw members of the public blockading entrance and exit routes in Ladysmith townships including Steadville and eZakheni. Commuters had taken to the streets after learning of the 10 percent increase from last year's fares, which resulted in them barricading routes.

Mchunu immediately sent a team of public transport officials to facilitate discussions among all stakeholders including the eMnambithi Local Municipality led by the mayor, Councillor Madlala, councilors, the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), local taxi associations, and other community structures.

"I welcome the speedy resolution of the public protests in Ladysmith. I further call on all stakeholders, especially the taxi associations to undertake the necessary public consultation, working with the Mnambithi Local Municipality, SANTACO and officials from the Department of Transport's public transport unit. The suspension of the taxi fare increase until the 15th of August 2015 to allow for the consultation of commuters, is also a progressive move. The consultation opens room for ensuring that all socio-economic factors and, critically, the views of commuters are taken into account to arrive at an amicable decision. We must understand that consultation and amicable resolution of issues is our collective responsibility and is crucial to maintain peace, stability and growth within our communities," said Mchunu.

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