



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 & PR Wires

MEC MCHUNU COMMENDS POLICE ON THEIR SWIFT MOVE IN APPREHENDING MORE SUSPECTS IN DURBAN BROOK STREET TAXI RANK SHOOTING

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu has commended the law enforcement agencies for their swift move in apprehending additional suspects linked to the Brook street taxi rank shooting yesterday.

Already there were 12 suspects arrested yesterday and later police made another breakthrough when they arrested an additional 12, increasing the number of arrested suspects to 24.

The massive clampdown on suspects is subsequent to an intensive deployment of police after the shooting that killed three people, including a by-standing commuter, a security guard and an operator, while critically injuring three people who are hospitalised.

Police had also confiscated 25 firearms and ammunition from the scene. Some of the recovered firearms included an R5 rifle, 9mm pistols and shotguns, which will be sent for ballistic testing to ascertain if they were involved in any previous criminal activities.

It is suspected that the tension over route encroachment between the Durban-based Sonke Long Distance taxi association and South coast based Zamokuhle taxi association.

Commenting after receiving news of additional arrests, MEC Mchunu expressed satisfaction at the breakthroughs by the police, saying those responsible for this callous murder deserve to rot in jail.

"We applaud the good work by all our law enforcement agencies. The arrest of so many suspects must be a clear message that anyone who is plotting to destabilise the taxi industry, will be dealt with severely. Deployments are still there at the taxi rank to monitor and secure the area. We are going to do all we can to ensure the safety of commuters who are at times caught in the cross fire at taxi ranks. We have also discussed plans with eThekweni metropolitan municipality for government to take over control and security of taxi ranks as important public areas. Once again, we call on all those who are involved in the conflict to look for peaceful solutions to end this conflict," said Mchunu.
ENDS.

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