



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

TO : ALL MEDIA  
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ATTENTION : EDITORS/ NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRE

### **MEC MCHUNU ORDERS INTENSIFIED, FIRM LAW ENFORCEMENT CLAMPDOWN ON TAXI RIOTS**

THE KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has expressed confidence that the Government and the law enforcement agencies in the province are "on top of the situation" and ready to deal with attempts by some rogue elements in the taxi industry to destabilise the province.

Mchunu, who is also the Chairperson of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS), was briefed today by the Provincial Commissioner of Police, Lt.-General Mammonye Ngobeni, on the recent outbreak of taxi violence in Durban.

The report presented at the JCPS meeting today indicated that since last week's shoot-out incident that claimed the lives of three people, further attempts had been made to stabilise the industry.

These included attempts by taxi owners in Durban to embark on an illegal strike and marches. However, through proactive intervention by security agencies, these illegal activities had very minimal impact.

Mchunu applauded the manner in which the security agencies, namely, SAPS, intelligence community, the Department of Transport's Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) and EThekweni Metro Police, have dealt with the situation, thereby minimising the impact of attempts to destabilise peace and public transport in and around EThekweni.

Significantly, Mchunu was adamant that there would be no "compromise" on law enforcement as police are keeping a close eye on all illegal gatherings of taxi operators in Durban.

"Police are on top of the situation and we believe that they (police) have been excellent. The cooperation between Metro police, Department of Transport, SAPS and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) is yielding positive results. We are doing all we can to ensure that law and order is preserved," said Mchunu.

Mchunu emphasised that nothing that sought to undermine and "compromise" the authority of the State would be tolerated.

"There will be no compromise on the law. Anybody who violates the law will be dealt with accordingly," said Mchunu.

He rejected any suggestions by some sections of the taxi industry that the Department of Transport had been slow in issuing operating licences.

More than 2407 permits have been issued in Durban region alone since last year and more than 265 have not been collected by the applicants.

"The allegations that the Department of Transport has not been issuing permits is a lame excuse and an attempt to distract us from dealing with real issues. The fact that some are owing traffic fines is making it difficult for them to obtain permission from the municipality to be issued with permits. Equally, the on-going illegal recruitment of people by some taxi associations to become operators without permits is the main source of the taxi industry instability, over and above route encroachment," said Mchunu.

The JCPS cluster also condemned the escalation of violence in the taxi industry involving Sonke Long Distance taxi association and Zamokuhle taxi association. It said the fact that suspects in the shooting incident have spent a week in police cells is an indication that government has taken a harsh stance to end taxi violence in the province.

Ends.

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