



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC MCHUNU OUTLINES PLANS TO TIGHTEN SECURITY CONTROL AT TAXI RANKS TO STABILISE THE TAXI INDUSTRY

THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has announced intentions to tighten security control in taxi ranks in volatile areas to ensure safety of the commuters is not compromised.

This new approach will see the Department of Transport and municipalities working together to "manage" access and control of taxi ranks.

This announcement was made by the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, last week when he tabled his budget speech at the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature.

"Moreover, the Department will establish a Public Transport Compliance, Inspection and Monitoring team to ensure safety of passengers and operators. Working with municipalities, we will ensure industry stability in affected areas by strengthening security in taxi ranks," said MEC Mchunu.

Security companies have been caught in the forefront of conflict in the taxi industry and this has resulted to commuters being wounded or killed when there is exchange of gunfire.

In the KwaDukuza and KwaMaphumulo taxi conflict, 21 suspects have been arrested for alleged involvement in violence and most suspects are members of security companies.

Mchunu further mentioned that the contracted security companies will now link with law enforcement agencies of the Department and municipalities to work proactively to prevent conflict.

This initiative has started working in Newcastle and will now be implemented in Port Shepstone – where incidents of violence were reported recently.

MEC Mchunu also expressed satisfaction that the province was making progress as the taxi industry is stabilizing except for few taxi associations experiencing problems with pockets of conflict.

“Out of 246 taxi associations, only few remain with challenges. Judging from the progress made thus far, we believe that it is possible to achieve peace and stability through dialogue and working well with the South African National Taxi Council's leadership,” added MEC Mchunu.

Ends.

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