

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE: Tuesday, 06 January 2014

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS, EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU MEETS KWADUKUZA AND MAPHUMULO TAXI ASSOCIATION TO CALM TENSIONS FOLLOWING MURDER OF TAXI BOSS

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has called for calm following the brutal murder of KwaDukuza taxi association's secretary, Mr. Muzi Mhlongo.

MEC Mchunu issued this call during a meeting with the KwaDukuza and Maphumulo taxi associations that was held in Durban yesterday.

Mchunu who was accompanied by the SANTACO leadership called on members of both taxi associations to restrain themselves and allow police to conduct investigations.

Mhlongo was attacked and killed on New Year's Eve at a petrol garage in KwaDukuza.

The case is now being investigated by the Provincial Taxi Violence task team – which is a specialised team that deals with taxi related crimes in the province.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the family killing and colleagues of Mr. Mhlongo. Those responsible for this callous deed must face the long arm of the law. Violence is not the way to solve problems in this industry. During this period you must remain calm as police have assured me of doing their best to find perpetrators and ensure safety in KwaDukuza," said Mchunu.

"We must work together to achieve total stability in the taxi industry under iLembe District. Last year we visited this area with the Premier – this was an indication that as government we are concerned with incidents that are taking place in this area. Dialogue is

the only solution we know to whatever problems, therefore gun fire will not resolve any differences but will instead deepen them," said Mchunu.

Ends.

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