



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 17 AUGUST 2015
ATTENTION : EDITORS/ NEWS EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU CONCERNED ABOUT KILLINGS OF TAXI OPERATORS IN THE GREATER PIETERMARITZBURG AREA

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has noted with grave concern the killing of two taxi operators in separate incidents in the Greater Pietermaritzburg over the weekend.

Reports reveal that Mlindeni Mthlane (59) was allegedly gunned down by two unknown assailants while meeting with his taxi drivers on Thursday night. He was then taken to Edendale Hospital, but died on the way. The motive behind Mr. Mthlane's killing remains unknown but police are working around the clock to apprehend those believed to be behind the killing.

In a separate incident, reports indicate that a taxi driver Zibongele Myeza (36) was gunned down by an unknown man in Swayimane on the 13th August 2015. It is alleged that an unknown assailant, who pretended to be a passenger in his taxi travelling from Pietermaritzburg to Swayimane, shot him as he was jumping off the taxi. It is alleged that there was a getaway car that the assailant jumped into, which was following the taxi from Pietermaritzburg.

MEC Mchunu reacted with anger, saying all those who are fuelling violence in the taxi industry are going to be dealt with harshly by the rule of law.

"The killings in the taxi industry are disturbing and worrying. Innocent people sometimes get caught in the cross-fire. The killing of Mr. Mthlane and Mr. Myeza is unacceptable as they were family men trying to provide for their families but their lives were taken away from them. We are certain that the police will work hard to bring those responsible for these deaths to book. We would like to make an appeal to all community members to work with police in ensuring that the perpetrators are apprehended. This happens at a time when we have made serious progress in stabilising the taxi industry in the province. We will continue to work with all stakeholders and the affected associations to ensure that long lasting peace is achieved," said Mchunu.

Ends.

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