



transport

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Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

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MEC KAUNDA CALLS ON THE TAXI INDUSTRY TO END ROAD CRASHES AHEAD OF THE FESTIVE SEASON

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has made a passionate plea to the leadership of the taxi industry to ensure maximum compliance by all taxi drivers ahead of the festive season.

Kaunda, who addressed the Women's Desk of the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) this morning in Durban, appealed to the taxi industry to lead by example in the upcoming holidays by committing to reduce road crashes and fatalities.

He was speaking a few weeks after two major fatal accidents in eMpingeni involving minibus taxis, and that claimed 10 lives. As well, earlier today, two trucks and a minibus taxi crashed on the M13 (Fields Hill), resulting in the injury of 13 people.

Kaunda said the taxi industry plays an essential role in transporting the majority of commuters, and urged for patience and tolerance on the road.

"We are appealing to the leadership of the taxi industry, led by SANTACO, to commit to contributing their best efforts to reduce crashes and fatalities on the provincial roads ahead of the Festive Season. As government, we will work together with the taxi industry in promoting responsible driving and ensure adherence to all the traffic regulations. Through Operation Hlokomela, we will work together to stop and search all taxis before they leave taxi ranks," said Kaunda.

KwaZulu-Natal has over the past two days been hosting the National Road Safety Summit, which was aimed at consolidating efforts from all stakeholder towards reducing road crashes and fatalities.

Kaunda also used the conference to call for women in the taxi industry to campaign strongly for peace and stability.

"We urge you the women in the taxi industry to campaign for peace and stability. The levels of killings in the taxi industry are alarming and has reached an unacceptable proportion. We must, from here, resolve to end violence and create a taxi industry that is professionally managed. When we have women in the forefront, we will end instability in the industry," added Kaunda.

He also vowed that government will not rest until women are afforded enough space to showcase their potential in society. This included challenging the taxi industry to transform and absorb more women in leadership position.

"As we continue with our programme to transform the transport industry, we are going to ensure that women taxi operators benefit from this programme so that they can participate in the mainstream economy," said Kaunda.

Ends.

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