

MEC Kaunda condemns reckless driving which causes avoidable accidents



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Friday, 19 August 2016
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

MEC KAUNDA CONDEMNS THE MURDERS OF TWO TAXI OPERATORS IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has condemned the ruthless killing of two taxi operators in two separate incidents that occurred on Wednesday and Thursday (17 and 18 August 2016) this week.

Preliminary reports indicate that on Wednesday (17 August 2016) Mr. Nhlanhla Mhlongo (52), who was a principal at Mpumelelweni Primary and also held the position of Treasury for the Ndwedwe and District Taxi association, was gunned down in his Toyota vehicle. A VW Polo allegedly tried to block Mhlongo's vehicle when unidentified assailants opened fire at him. He died on the scene.

In a separate incident it was revealed that yesterday (18 August 2016) Mr. Sanele Ngobese, who was a member of the executive of the Mlazi West Taxi Association, was shot by unknown suspects at a traffic light in Umlazi J section while driving to home.

Kaunda has strongly condemned the killings which threaten to undermine the strides that have been made to bring peace and stability in the public transport industry.

"It is very disturbing to learn of such killings as so much work has been done to bring peace and stability in the taxi industry throughout the province," said MEC Kaunda.

Kaunda noted that the government recently hosted the taxi indaba with all industry players in Durban, which was addressed by Premier Willies Mchunu. The indaba gave affirmation of collaboration between operators and the government to engage in dialogue to bring peace and stability in the industry.

"One of the resolutions that emanated from indaba was that we need to end the conflict that threatens industry stability," said Kaunda.

The department has been aware of tensions in the area of MNI in Umlazi and was working in finding possible reasons for appropriate action to end it.

"Out of the 246 taxi associations that operate in the province only a few are noted as having tensions. We are determined to see that we keep the integrity of the industry by ensuring that we maintain peace," said Kaunda.

“We appeal to all operators to remain calm while we are engaging with affected parties. Law enforcement officers have been dispatched to police the affected areas. We will work with the police in finding the perpetrators and hope members of the community will come forward with information leading to the arrest of the suspects. I also wish to send my deepest condolences to the families of the two operators who were murdered,” said Kaunda.

ENDS.

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 072 803 1462/ 079- 699 5755/ Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi: 081 018 0518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport