



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Wednesday, 28 September 2016
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR

MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR CALM FOLLOWING THE KILLING OF TWO PEOPLE IN A TAXI CONFLICT IN UMZINYATHI - DURBAN

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has instructed the department to convene an urgent meeting with all the affected parties in uMzinyathi to end the bloody conflict that claimed two people's lives yesterday.

Kaunda has also expressed concerns following the resurgence of taxi conflict, which resulted to the shooting and disruption of operations. The incident is suspected to be fueled by tensions within Ndwedwe and District taxi association.

The shooting happened as the department was setting up a meeting with the leadership of the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) and the taxi association to resolve disputes in the taxi association.

Kaunda said trigger-happy criminals who are destabilizing the hard-won peace in the taxi industry will be dealt with the full might of the law.

"We have asked the police to maintain heavy presence in the area to prevent further killings. The criminals who are terrorizing the taxi industry must be dealt with a serious blow by the long arm of the law. We condemn this latest shooting, and further urge anyone with information to work with the police," said Kaunda.

The meeting convened today is an attempt to restore normality in the association and to end feuds within the leadership of the association.

He also expressed optimism that the meeting will come up with concrete resolutions that will improve the situation and be in the best interest of the commuters.

"We urge all parties to approach these talks with the sole objective of finding peace and stability in the association. Such incidents of violence do not only affect those who are involved in the conflict but make life difficult for innocent commuters. We must all act in the interest of protecting commuters, who are in fact the customers of taxi operators," said Kaunda.

The Department of Transport and SANTACO have been proactively working flat-out to root out incidents of violence in the province. Out of the 246 taxi associations in the province, very few are currently experiencing violence and conflict.

Ends.

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