



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: Thursday, 15 September 2016
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR

MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR TOUGHER RESTRICTIONS OF SECURITY COMPANIES IN TAXI RANKS FOLLOWING THE SHOOTING IN SHAKASKRAAL

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has called on the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) to enforce laws prohibiting security companies from displaying firearms in public.

This call by Kaunda follows the shooting of a six year old, allegedly by a security guard at the Shakaskraal taxi rank on Monday this week.

It is alleged that when a taxi was about to depart from the taxi rank, a security guard opened fire on a taxi driver.

A six-year-old boy and another passenger sustained injuries and were rushed to hospital. Police have confirmed that an investigation is currently underway to establish the circumstances that resulted in the shooting.

Kaunda said PSIRA must enforce measures to proven irregular conduct of some security companies whose behaviour in public areas such as taxi ranks shows tendencies of pretending to be a law unto themselves.

“Together with PSIRA and the police we must find ways of holding the recalcitrant security companies and their personnel to account. It is unacceptable that security guards are allowed to parade heavy weapons in public and threaten the lives of the commuters. This has been left unattended for far too long and we must now work out mechanisms to address this issue and enforce the law. People have a right to protect themselves and their properties, but that cannot be at the expense of people’s lives,” said Kaunda.

Last year the KZN Department of Transport convened a meeting with security companies contracted in the greater KwaDukuza area following the shooting that resulted in the death of four people in Stanger.

Kaunda said security companies must operate within the law and must at all times act in a manner that is promoting and protecting the safety of the commuters.

“Taxi ranks are public areas and no one has a right to hold people at ransom. We are deeply concerned that security companies in taxi ranks have previously been caught in the forefront of violence and killings in the taxi industry. In some cases security guards have been arrested and sentenced for violence in the taxi industry. We call on the taxi industry to also assess the role of security companies they employ and help clamp down on their untoward behaviour,” said Kaunda.

Kaunda also reiterated his satisfaction with the sentencing of a taxi operator from KwaMaphumulo (Sipho Zulu) to life imprisonment and an additional 10 years after he was found guilty of killing his colleague (Nelson Cele) in 2012.

Ends.

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