



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR

MEC KAUNDA TAKES HIS HAT OFF FOR POLICE OFFICER WHO ARRESTED TAXI DRIVER AND OWNER FOR VIOLATING TRAFFIC LAWS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has described as heroic and a demonstration of patriotism the work of a police officer who arrested an errant taxi driver for deliberately violating the law and risking the lives of other road users.

This morning a South African Police Service member from the Durban Accident Combating Unit was driving on the R102, when he spotted a taxi driver violating the law.

Even worse, the taxi which was laden with passengers, was spotted violating traffic signs and overtaking on barrier lines, facing the on-coming vehicles, which endangered the lives of other road users.

After it was circulated the taxi was traced in Durban central, where the driver was arrested. The vehicle owner was also traced and arrested. He will also face charges as the vehicle is not roadworthy, and has many defects. It was immediately suspended from operating on provincial roads.

Reacting to this bold action by the police officer, Kaunda described the officer's action as "exemplary and a living proof that accidents can be avoided if all errant behaviour can be rooted out from our roads."

"We commend the bravery and the dedication of the SAPS member who took it upon himself to save many lives that were in danger through the actions of this irresponsible driver. This must be a good example to all law enforcement agencies that any traffic violation on the road must concern them, because it undermines their profession and places the lives of the public in danger. The arrest of both the taxi driver and the owner also shows our determination to take to task all those responsible for traffic violations. This will assist in instilling a mind-set change and a new culture to road users. We say motorists must do right even if there is no police officer who is watching," said Kaunda.

Police also reported that the taxi driver had an outstanding tally of fines amounting to **R10 100**, while the owner also had outstanding fines totalling **R10 200**.

Kaunda said vehicle owners should also teach their drivers the importance of road safety and adhering to traffic laws, otherwise they too would be arrested.

"Vehicle owners must ensure that their drivers comply with the law otherwise they too will suffer the consequences. We call on all road users to report bad driving as part of saving the lives of innocent people. As the Government, we will continue mobilising all stakeholders to play their part and take collective responsibility in ensuring safety on the road. We will continue to work with SANTACO, specifically through Operation Hlokomela, with a view of improving compliance and saving the lives of the passengers, using public transport. We are determined to reduce the scourge of road accidents and fatalities," concludes Kaunda.

People are urged to use the following numbers to report traffic violations: **0862211010** the Department of Transport's Mpimpa hotline and SAPS Crime Stop on **0860010111**

Ends.

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