



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

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MEC KAUNDA MEETS SANTACO PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP

The MEC for Transport Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has committed the KZN Department of Transport that it will assist the taxi industry to grow.

Speaking at the meeting with the Provincial Executive of the South African Taxi Industry (SANTACO) today, the 23rd of August 2016, in Durban, Kaunda said that it was important for the department and the industry to address issues affecting the taxi industry peace and stability.

The parties used the platform to engage on immediate priorities aimed at improving the business operations in the taxi industry, as well as peace and stability.

Kaunda who has been consistent in his commitment in driving radical socio-economic transformation called on the taxi industry to partner with the department in transforming the subsidised bus industry by becoming a major stakeholder.

"We wish to improve the participation of Black African-owned companies in our subsidised public transport services, because we believe that the taxi industry must be a major shareholder in the industry that moves citizens to and from areas of social and economic activities. I know one of the major challenges that the taxi industry has been experiencing is that of not getting assistance from financial institutions. However, I believe that if the taxi industry were to work as a collective and jointly approached banks to get the necessary financing they can succeed," said Kaunda.

Kaunda said he was also in engagements with the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Sihle Zikalala, to ascertain what other economic opportunities the taxi industry can leverage on to ensure broader participation in the economy.

"However, for all this to succeed we need the taxi industry to run this industry in a more professional and business-like manner. We want to end these conflicts in the taxi industry where taxi owners end up fighting for routes due to limited business opportunities," said Kaunda.

Kaunda said he was also determined to root out violence in the industry and ensure that there is peace and stability in the few remaining associations that continue to have challenges.

"We do not want to see violence reemerge in this province. It is important that taxi operators ensure that they continuously adhere to the rule of law and conduct their business within the legal prescripts. It is also important that the industry also ensures that they use roadworthy vehicles and have operating licences and permits so their vehicles do not get impounded by our traffic officers," said Kaunda.

Among the issues that were raised by SANTACO through its Provincial Chairperson, Mr. Boy Zondi, include the slow pace in the processing of permits in time in what is now a rapidly growing industry and requested that the department urgently fill the vacant posts in the licensing offices.

Zondi said they were also looking forward to working with Kaunda to improve transport operations in province.

Ends.

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