

## **MEC KAUNDA CONDEMNS SHOOTING OF THREE PASSENGERS IN A TAXI**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, has strongly condemned the shooting of two passengers and a taxi driver in KwaSwayimane over the weekend.

The incident occurred on Friday evening when a suspect who was a passenger allegedly requested to be dropped off at a bus stop. As the driver pulled off, the passenger shot at him and two other passengers, killing them instantly. The fourth passenger in the taxi survived after she managed to hide under the seats. The suspect, who is still at large, fled the scene with a getaway car. The police are investigating.

Last month, MEC Kaunda visited the area following the killing of a 15-year-old girl in her home while she was studying. Currently, police are investigating 24 murder cases in the area, which are believed to be linked to the ongoing taxi conflicts.

Kaunda said that his department was on the ground in Swayimane engaging all relevant stakeholders with a view of finding a lasting solution to the violent killing taking place in the community.

“It is unacceptable that people continue to be killed in KwaSwayimane. A police crack team has been working hard since we visited the area last month. These incidents are not painting a good picture of our province. It is for this reason that the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, we have initiated the community dialogue programme, which seeks to end the chapter of violent conflicts in the province. Our officials are already on the ground in Swayimane, assisting the police and members of the community to bring peace and stability in the area,” said Kaunda.

MEC Kaunda has asked the police to maintain a strong presence in the area to ensure that no further killings take place. The MEC will also engage with the leadership of the South African National Taxi Council and the local taxi association as part of his broad intervention to end the on-going killings.

Ends.