



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## COMMUNICATIONS

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: Friday, 9 December 2016  
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors, & PR Wires

#### **MEC KAUNDA CALLS FOR CALM IN EDENDALE AFTER DRIVER WAS SHOT AND WOUNDED IN EDENDALE**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has made a passionate plea to taxi operators to cease fire and sit down and talk, after a taxi operator was shot and wounded in Edendale.

Preliminary reports reveal that on Wednesday (7 December 2016) at about 5 pm, a shooting ensued when a taxi driver transporting his conductor and one passenger was shot while driving his taxi, by an unknown vehicle which pulled up and the occupant opened fire. The driver sustained wounds to his arm and was rushed to a nearby hospital. Police are investigating a case of attempted murder.

MEC Kaunda expressed concern at this attack, which occurred a few hours after he visited the area following reports of conflict in the area.

The area of Edendale had been flooded by reports of a feud between legal and illegal operators. At the meeting the MEC had with the local SANTACO leadership and law enforcement agencies he mentioned that such reports should not unsettle the community.

**"This feud between legal and illegal operators is not unique to this area. We had a meeting on Tuesday this week where we resolved to increase law enforcement visibility in the area. We then asked the municipality to help in identifying these illegal operators so that we root them out. We will also address the issue of private security at the taxi ranks and have asked taxi associations to refrain from sourcing their own companies, but to allow the municipality to source such services. As a department we will continue to closely monitor the situation and continue engaging with the leadership to find lasting amicable solutions. We wish the driver in hospital a speedy recovery,"** said Kaunda.

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