



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC MCHUNU CALLS FOR CALM, RESTRAINT FOLLOWING KILLINGS OF TAXI OPERATORS IN GREATER DURBAN

THE KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has called for calm and restraint following killings of taxi operators in the greater Durban and surroundings.

MEC Mchunu's call and strong concerns follow the recent killings of five taxi operators in Lindelani, Inanda and Molweni in the past three weeks, which threaten the progress already made by the department working with the provincial and regional leadership of the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) and affected associations.

"We are deeply concerned by these killings, because they threaten to regress the great strides we have made working with the leadership of the taxi industry to secure peace and stability. We call on all captains of industry in the affected areas of Lindelani, Inanda and Molweni to work with the department and the police to ensure that peace and stability prevail in these areas. Let us all strongly condemn in strongest terms possible the killings, because they are anti-development and growth," said Mchunu.

Already meetings have been arranged with the leadership of the above associations to find long lasting peace and solutions to curb violence and killings.

The police have indicated that they are making progress in some of the cases, however, MEC Mchunu has further called on all those with information and evidence to work with the police to ensure that perpetrators are brought to book with speed.

"Police alone cannot end conflict and violence. We appeal to members of the affected associations to share information with the police for them to make a breakthrough and arrest the perpetrators. We are also concerned with the proliferation of firearms in the industry, which are used to commit these callous murders," said MEC Mchunu.

Last week, addressing SANTACO Annual General Meeting in Newcastle, MEC Mchunu reported that most areas in the province enjoy taxi industry peace and stability, except for few areas in Durban. He further committed to continue working with the SANTACO leadership to implement processes to proactively resolve taxi industry conflict at the formation stage.

ENDS.

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