



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA  
DATE: Thursday, 21 April 2016  
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

### **MEC MCHUNU REACTS WITH SHOCK ON THE BRUTAL KILLING OF KWAMAPHUMULO TAXI OPERATOR**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu has reacted with shock following the fatal shooting of prominent KwaMaphumulo taxi operator.

Police reports reveal that Sibusiso Sokhela (42) sustained multiple gunshot wounds, when attacked by unknown assailants in Townview area, in Stanger yesterday evening.

He was confirmed dead on the scene and the motive of his attack is not known at this stage, however, the case is now being investigated by the Police Taxi Violence Task team.

Commenting on the incident, MEC Mchunu, called for calm and restraint, saying police are working to find the perpetrators of this heinous deed.

“We strongly condemn the murder of Mr. Sokhela and any other incidents of violence. At this state it is not clear whether this incident is linked to disputes in the taxi industry or it is an isolated incident of criminality. We appeal for calm and restraint as police are now investigating this murder case. We wish to send our deepest condolences to the Sokhela family and the entire taxi industry fraternity.” said Mchunu.

He further urged members of the public who have the information to work with the police and appealed for those concerned to avoid speculating on the possible cause of the killing.

Mchunu said it was disturbing that another member of the association is killed with few months after the killing of KwaMaphumulo taxi association Chairperson, Chris Ngiba, who was ambushed last year at his home in Pinetown.

Last week, MEC Mchunu tabled the budget speech for the Department of Transport at the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature and outlined key measures aimed at stabilising the taxi industry.

Part of the strategy is to proactively work with Santaco leadership in addressing conflict in various associations before it escalates into violence and ensure regulating all legal operators.

KwaMaphumulo and Stanger were singled out in Mchunu's speech as areas which have been receiving attention from the Department following years of standing feud between the two associations.

Currently, the Department is busy with the regulations of all legal operators in the area and is in the process of facilitating the issuing of operating licences following all due processes required by the law.

ENDS.

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