



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: 28 June 2016

#### **KWAZULU NATAL GOVERNMENT TO MEET ALL TAXI ASSOCIATIONS AND BODIES TO DISCUSS PROGRESS AND ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN THE SECOND TAXI INDABA**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has expressed satisfaction with the preparations of the provincial Taxi Indaba to be held in Durban on Thursday.

MEC Kaunda made these remarks after meeting with the Department of Transport's Public Regulatory Entity (PRE) to get a briefing on the state of readiness for the indaba.

The second Provincial Taxi Indaba will be led by the Premier of the KwaZulu-Natal, Mr. Willies Mchunu, and MEC Kaunda. It offers a very rare opportunity where government engages with representatives of all the taxi associations in the province and all taxi bodies under one roof.

The objective of this year's taxi indaba is to deliberate on critical issues affecting the taxi industry, including issues of regulations, moratorium on operating licences, stability in the industry and broadly the role of the taxi industry in economic growth of the province.

MEC Kaunda is adamant that the Second Taxi Indaba will yield positive outcomes and improve relations between the taxi industry and government, which will ultimately benefit the commuters.

"The second taxi indaba offers yet another opportunity for the government at all levels and the taxi industry to engage on various issues, especially relating to peace, stability and growth of the industry. The main objective is to ensure that issues are handled accordingly and to prevent any future disruption that would affect the commuters. We are the government that listens to the people and the taxi industry is a very important stakeholder, because of its size but also its significant role in the economy and job creation," said Kaunda.

Government will also report on the progress made since the 2012 taxi indaba, which looked into a number of issues and took progressive resolutions to stabilise and improve the taxi industry in the province.

MEC Kaunda said the meeting will take place noting that the environment and most associations have stabilised, which is a good foundation for development and growth.

"Our view is that slowly even the remaining areas still confronted by conflict are stabilising, and are resolving their differences amicably. The province has 246 taxi associations and very few are still experiencing conflict and killings of operators. The taxi indaba will explore ideas on how to eliminate even the remaining pockets of conflict and killings in the industry. As government we are also prepared to engage with the industry on the issue of operating licences, which is crucial for a stable taxi business," said Kaunda.

He concluded by expressing desire for government and taxi industry to build strong relations that will benefit the people of this province, saying this taxi indaba will go a long way in assessing the distance travelled since 2012 to date, and provide answers to some of the current challenges.

#### **Details of the Taxi Indaba**

Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016  
Venue: People's Park – Moses Mabhida stadium in Durban  
Time: 09h00

Ends./



*Caption: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Taxi Indaba will offer a very rare opportunity for government to engage with representatives of all the taxi associations in the province and all taxi bodies under one roof. Pictured are representatives from taxi associations who previously attended taxi-related engagement with the Department.*

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