



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

#### **MEC KAUNDA ANNOUNCES DISBANDMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY LIAISON STRUCTURES AT THE TRANSPORT INDABA**

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has this afternoon announced the disbandment of all transportation industry's community liaison structures, in keeping with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government's decision to collapse and consolidate all community structures at the Voting Districts' level.

Kaunda made the announcement during the final, consultative meeting with the executive leadership and representatives of the transportation liaison structures, also attended by industry stakeholders including the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) and the KwaZulu-Natal Bus Council (KWANABUCO).

The transportation liaison structures are the Rural Roads and Transportation Forum (RRTF), Community Road Safety Councils (CRSC) and the Public Transport and Passengers Association (PTPA).

The RRTF were responsible for championing roads and bridges infrastructure development in local communities; CRSC focused on road safety education and advocacy, whilst the PTPA represented the interests of public transport users, especially the negotiation of annual transportation fare increases.

"The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has worked very well and deeply appreciates the role these community liaison structures have played in advancing the cause of our people's empowerment and development, working with our department and government at local level."

"They have been instrumental, since their establishment in 1996, in bringing meaning to our strategic governance thrust of participatory democracy. Through them, the department was able to reach out to communities, communicate its programmes, understand the infrastructure needs of the communities we serve and assisted us in the prioritisation of development projects with community input and buy-in, and within the constraints of limited budgets against a huge backlog," explained Kaunda.

The provincial government's executive had decided in 2012, to work towards consolidating all community structures working with government departments, across all service delivery fronts, from economic infrastructure to social and safety issues, explained Kaunda.

"The time has come for us to move with speed to amalgamate all of these structures, because we are a unitary state, working to address the issues of our people's development,

with the people themselves, but holistically at the Voting District level. Beyond this, we seek to ensure that the new structures will champion community interests in development matters, as part of the "Ward Committee" structure. We also expect them to advocate for, and drive the process of beneficiation of communities through social enterprises, emerging from the government's Radical Socio-Economic Transformation programme," added Kaunda.

The department's radical socio-economic transformation programme (named IGULA; for the Inclusive Growth, Unity and Economic Liberation of Africans and Blacks in general), is aimed to markedly improve the participation of mainly Africans in the transport sector's value chain. Social enterprises, including cooperatives involving and led by Women, the Youth, People with Disabilities, and Military Veterans, will be targeted for participation in local empowerment initiatives across all of the department's projects.

ENDS.

**Media contacts:**

Kwanele Ncalane: 0728031462/ 0796995755/ [Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za)

Nathi Sukazi: 0810180518/ [Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za)

Website: [www.kzntransport.gov.za](http://www.kzntransport.gov.za)

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kzntransport](http://www.facebook.com/kzntransport)