



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Tuesday, 31 October 2017

### **MEC KAUNDA COMMITS TO HARSHER ACTIONS TO END TAXI CONFLICT IN LADYSMITH AFTER THE KILLING OF 11 PEOPLE TODAY**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has instructed the department to explore all available legal avenues in a bid to intervene decisively in ending taxi conflict that has claimed the lives of 11 people in Ladysmith this morning.

This morning, MEC Kaunda was briefed on the brutal attack and killing of the Klipriver taxi association leader, who was ambushed with his four bodyguards in Elandslaagte, Matiwane outside Ladysmith. All the five occupants died on the scene.

The shooting resulted in their bakkie losing control and colliding with an oncoming minibus taxi, which was transporting teachers to a local school. Five occupants from the taxi also died.

The shooting is suspected to be linked to an ongoing conflict between two taxi associations, Sizwe and Klipriver taxi associations.

The police have also revealed that high calibre firearms were used in committing this crime. A team of experts has now moved to the scene to assist in the investigation.

Commenting after receiving a briefing from the police, Kaunda called for extra ordinary measures to be implemented to prevent further loss of lives in the area.

"We are deeply angered and disturbed by this brutal killing of people in Ladysmith. I have instructed the Department of Transport to explore all legal powers at our disposal to intervene decisively to prevent further killings. This conflict places the lives of ordinary people in danger as teachers, who are innocent, were killed after the shooting. On behalf of the provincial government, we wish to extend our deepest condolences to the families of the teachers and the family of the taxi industry leader and bodyguards who lost their lives. I have engaged with police leadership to move swiftly in securing the area and ensuring visibility to protect innocent civilians. Police will also improve deployments and teams working in the investigation of all cases of violence in the area."

In addition, "I will be tabling this matter at the Provincial Executive Council tomorrow to seek the Executive Council's guidance on measures to clamp down on the violence. All avenues will be explored to bring about stability in the area of Ladysmith as I believe that this is now an issue that requires all our collective efforts," said Kaunda.

As part of the Department's ongoing interventions aimed at resolving the conflict between the two taxi associations, MEC Kaunda convened a meeting last week that was aimed at finding a win-win solution that would bring peace in the area following ongoing assassinations. At the centre of the conflict is a dispute over routes between the two associations. The matter is currently in court with an interim court order having granted Klipriver as the rightful operator.

Ends.

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