



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors, & Reporters

MEC KAUNDA WELCOMES SENTENCING OF TWO TAXI VIOLENCE KILLERS IN ESTCOURT

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has welcomed the sentencing of two accused men for taxi violence cases they committed at Estcourt in 2012, last Friday, the 28th of July 2017.

Friday's sentencing follows a breakthrough of 2015, when co-accused Sibusiso Zuma (34), Mali Mazibuko (41), Mxokozeli Mazibuko (54) pleaded guilty to murder in the Pietermaritzburg High Court. All three were convicted and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for the same murder. A fourth accused Bricks Zuma was sentenced 15 years' imprisonment for murder and five years for attempted murder.

The two accused, Jan Dlamini (37) and Thabani Ngcobo (30), who were sentenced yesterday had maintained their innocence for the crimes they committed in 2012. The High Court found them guilty and finally handed down life imprisonment judgments to each for murder. In addition, they were sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment each for attempted murder and Ngcobo was further sentenced to seven years for possession of an unlicensed firearm.

In February 2012, Zimele Reggie Mazibuko (35) who was a prominent taxi owner and affiliated to the Faraday Taxi Association in the Gauteng Province, was at his house sleeping with his brother in Ngodini area near Estcourt when they were attacked by a group of armed suspects who shot and killed Mazibuko, leaving his brother seriously injured.

Cases of murder and attempted murder were opened at Amangwe Police Station for investigation. The subsequent investigation led to the arrest of the deceased other brother, Mali Mazibuko, who confessed and provided information on the other killers. The deceased was killed for a taxi-route dispute in Gauteng. Later, the other accused were arrested and were all charged for murder and attempted murder. One of them was found in possession of an unlicensed 9 mm pistol during his arrest and was further charged for possession of unlicensed firearm.

Welcoming the convictions and sentences, Kaunda said: “There is no running away from the long arm of the law, even for the most devious of criminals. The sentencing last Friday of the two, adding to an earlier sentencing of three killers, who were involved in perpetrating violence in the taxi industry, closes the chapter on this one case. It is our considered view that it will send a strong message to all those who are, today, still contemplating the killing of their brothers or partners in the taxi industry, thereby giving a bad name to the mass-moving taxi industry. The growth of this industry and the progress of the people involved in it can only be assured when there prevails peace and stability. The police will not rest until they find another suspect in this case, Thokozani Chonco (41), who is still at large. We would like to plead with the community to work hand in hand with the police to assist in fast-tracking the arrest of this criminal,” said Kaunda.

Ends.

Media contacts:

Mluleki Mntungwa: 060 974 1140/ Mluleki.Mntungwa@kzntransport.gov.za

Kwanele Ncalane: 0728031462/079 6995755/ Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi: 081 018 0518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport