



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday, 07 December 2017

MEC KAUNDA MONITORS BUS OPERATIONS IN LADYSMITH FOLLOWING THE SUSPENSION OF TAXIS

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison has this morning visited various areas in Ladysmith to ensure that buses are operating smoothly following the suspension of taxis belonging to the two taxi operators.

MEC Kaunda yesterday announced the decision to suspend all taxi operations of Klipriver and Sizwe Taxi Association in Ladysmith for a period of six months. This means that both Sizwe and Klipriver Taxi Association have ceased to operate as from today, 07 December 2017.

Klipriver Taxi Association and Sizwe Transport took this decision following ongoing violence in this region that has claimed the lives of 61 people since 2014 particularly in the routes operated.

Several meetings and interventions made in this region, with all stakeholders and role-players had not produced the desired results.

MEC Kaunda visited various taxi ranks in Ladysmith to ensure that taxis belonging to the two associations were not operating and that buses that have been provided by government to transport people were operating. He also interacted with commuters where he explained that government had taken this decision to protect the lives of people in the area.

“A joint police and traffic monitoring team has been assembled and will be monitoring developments every hour to ensure that buses are operating smoothly with no disturbances. During my interaction with commuters they raised concerns about the frequency of the buses and I assured them that the Department will interact with bus operators to ensure that they increase the fleet so that people arrive on time at their various work places and destinations,” said MEC Kaunda.

In general, commuters also thanked government for this intervention as the ongoing killings related to the taxi industry were also of concern to them. Other Taxi Associations operating in Ladysmith were operating as usual with no disturbances.

Ends.

Media contacts:

Mluleki Mtungwa 0609741140 mluleki.mtungwa@kzntransport.gov.za

Kwanele Ncalane: 072- 803 1462/ 079- 699 5755/ 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