



transport

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MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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MEC KAUNDA ISSUES STERN WARNING TO NONGOMA TAXI ASSOCIATION

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has called on the Nongoma Taxi Association to resolve its disputes amicably or face the dire consequences of having their operations closed.

Kaunda issued the stern warning at a marathon meeting he convened on Friday with the Nongoma Taxi Association following the killing of five people in KwaDabhasi area whilst travelling in a taxi last week Monday.

Nongoma has been plagued by incidents of taxi conflict and faction fights, which have resulted in scores of people being killed. In KwaDabhasi alone, police are investigating over 20 murder cases which have occurred since 2014.

Since his appointment as MEC responsible for Transport and Community Safety and Liaison last year, Kaunda has made a number of interventions to bring peace and stability in the area.

Apart from increasing police visibility in the area, Kaunda has brought all the warring factions together and held a number of meetings with them to find a lasting solution to the conflict. This process led to a community meeting last year where the feuding groups declared publicly that they will never engage in violent conflicts again.

“We therefore condemned the recent killing as they undermine the peace process we have initiated, which has made the area relatively stable since last year,” said Kaunda.

Before the shooting incident, police maintained a strong presence in the area, with the Public Order Police Inyala permanently stationed at the taxi rank. A night before the shooting, police conducted operations in KwaDabhasi that resulted in the arrest of two people who were found in possession of illegal firearms.

At a meeting with the Nongoma taxi association executive, Kaunda outlined a process of bringing peace and stability in the area, including engaging people who are believed to be at the centre of the conflict.

“We are also finalising plans of establishing a satellite police station in KwaDabhasi to ensure high visibility of police in the area,” said Kaunda.

He also commended the police for conducting intensive operations in the areas since last week, which resulted in the arrest of 12 suspects who were in possession of illegal firearms including six AK47 rifles on Wednesday.

Kaunda said that police were also monitoring the situation in Tongaat, Dolphin Coast, uMbumbulu, Umzimkhulu and Pomeroy where there have been killings of taxi operators and municipal office bearers.

"I have asked the police to work round the clock to find perpetrators of these crimes so that they can be brought to face the full might of the law," said Kaunda.

Ends.

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