



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC KAUNDA ANGERED BY KILLING OF A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY IN A TAXI SHOOTOUT IN KWANDENGEZI

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, has expressed deep anger at the taxi shooting in KwaNdengezi, which resulted in the killing of a 13-year-old bystander.

A boy, whose identity is being withheld, was hit by a stray bullet during the shooting involving suspects and security guards attached to Zwelibomvu taxi association. Police have reported that today during the day, four unknown suspects opened fire targeting Zwelibomvu taxi association members. One taxi operator, who is a member of the executive of a taxi association, sustained gunshot wounds.

The security guard then retaliated and the exchange of gunfire ensued. The attackers ran away and a high level team of police detectives has been assembled to investigate the matter.

Commenting on this matter, Kaunda, expressed utter disgust at the killing of the 13-year-old boy, saying the impact of taxi violence is now ravaging the society.

"We find it very painful that a family has lost their innocent child, because of taxi violence. This does not only inflict pain to the family, but it also destroys the fabric of society and the future of our nation. The suspect, who fired shots at the young boy must be face the full might of the law. We wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Xaba family, who have lost their son. As government, we will not rest until there is stability in the province," said Kaunda.

Kaunda condemned ongoing killings in the taxi industry, saying joint efforts are needed to work for stability in the taxi industry.

Recently, Kaunda met with the leadership of the taxi industry in areas where there is a resurgence of violence, including Hammarsdale and Ladysmith. Subsequent to those meetings, Kaunda met with the management of the police to discuss flashpoint areas and to assess policing plans as well as to tighten investigations for the purposes of successful prosecution.

"In our meeting with the police, we agreed to review and beef up our plans in all notorious areas in the province. We are paying maximum attention to all areas engulfed by taxi conflict. Tough approaches are being implemented to end the scourge of taxi killings. We will continue to engage with Santaco and other key stakeholders to forge peace and stability," said Kaunda.

Ends.

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