



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday, 25 September 2018

MEC KAUNDA CONVENES URGENT MEETING WITH SECURITY AGENCIES AND TAXI OPERATORS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF KILPRIVER TAXI ASSOCIATION DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON IN LADYSMITH

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda has convened an urgent meeting with security agencies and taxi operators in Ladysmith following the killing of the Deputy Chairperson of Klipriver Taxi association Mr Samson Hlatshwayo.

Preliminary reports revealed that on Sunday (23 September 2018), Hlatshwayo was shot dead near Aller Park farm while driving to his home. A Police provincial task team is now investigating the case and is working hard to further establish the details and circumstances surrounding this callous shooting.

MEC Kaunda has dedicated the full day on Thursday (27 September 2018) to seek to establish if there are new emerging tensions within taxi operations in the area. Last year, Kaunda suspended operations by both Sizwe Taxi Association and Klipriver Taxi Association following a series of killings of operators and innocent passengers. Since 2014, more than 61 taxi operators have been killed in the area.

The suspension was further extended by six months in June 2018, set to elapse in December 2018. This is due to both associations failing to agree on cooperation agreement and reaching peace agreement.

After a huge outcry by commuters, Kaunda however relaxed the suspension and allowed local operations to continue, with the suspension only affecting long distance operations. He further warned the operators that should there be any violent conflicts and deaths relating to taxi operations he will not hesitate to take decisive action and apply all legal avenues available to his disposal.

Commenting after receiving the report, MEC Kaunda, said that government was committed in ensuring the safety of passengers and operators in the area and all necessary steps will be taken in bringing those implicated in the murder of Hlatshwayo to book.

"We are deeply disturbed by the latest incident. At this stage police are investigating the motive behind Hlatshwayo's death and we urge any person with information which may lead to the arrest of the perpetrators to come forward and help the police with information. On behalf of the government of KwaZulu Natal we send our deepest condolences to the Hlatshwayo family. As government we will continue to work hard in ensuring that Ladysmith is peaceful. We cannot allow anyone to reverse the gains we have made in stabilizing over the past years."said Kaunda.

Police will remain on a high alert in the area to ensure that there is peace and stability.

Ends.

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