



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Wednesday, 03 July 2019

### **MEC KAUNDA HAS VOWED TO TAKE TOUGH ACTIONS AGAINST SECURITY COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE MANDENI TAXI SHOOTING**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has called on the police and the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (Psira) to take swift action against security companies involved in the Mandeni taxi shooting.

The two security companies attached to the factions in the Mandeni/Sundumbili Taxi Association are reportedly in the forefront of the gun battle that ensued at the taxi rank on Monday.

The shooting left scores of commuters stranded after they were forced to run and hide to safeguard their lives. Six vehicles were also torched on Monday and one belonging to one security company was later set alight on Tuesday afternoon.

MEC Kaunda has since dispatched a team of senior managers, who together with Santaco leadership have met with the association to intervene in the conflict.

“I have assigned a team that has already met with the leadership of the association that is engaged in the conflict. Working with the Santaco leadership, we are moving with speed in stabilizing the situation in Mandeni. I will be writing to Psira to urgently investigate and take actions against the security companies which are involved in the shooting. Anarchy will not be tolerated,” said Kaunda.

The meeting between the Department and the taxi association resolved that there should be no future incidents of violence and that private security personnel must move outside the vicinity of the taxi ranks.

Police personnel have since been beefed up in the area. The police have also taken control of the security at the taxi rank to ensure that commuters and vendors are protected.

After receiving the briefing from the intervention team, MEC Kaunda cited a number of irregularities that need to be addressed on the manner in which the association is governed.

“Illegal collection of fees and other irregularities are the main source of conflict within the association. I have made it very clear that i will not hesitate to invoke sections of the National Land Transport Act, which empowers me to take drastic measures in an attempt to restore stability in the area. We also call on law enforcement agencies to remain vigilant,” concludes Kaunda.

The intervention team is having a follow up meeting today (Thursday, 03 July 2019). On Friday (04 July 2019) the Department will meet with the general membership of the association to outline the way forward to ensure all parties restore peace and normalcy.

Ends/

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