



# transport

Department:  
Transport  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, 16 January 2020

### **MEC NTULI EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AND UTTER DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE KILLING OF COMMUTERS, INCLUDING A SCHOOLGIRL AND INFANT IN AN ALLEGED TAXI HIT IN CATO RIDGE**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Bheki Ntuli, has expressed utter outrage and disgust following the killing of three commuters in an alleged taxi hit in Cato Ridge outside Durban.

It is suspected that assailants ambushed a taxi yesterday evening at around 19h30 at Eddie Hagen Drive that was travelling from Durban to KwaSwayimane.

The attackers opened fire towards the taxi, allegedly using high caliber firearms, killing among others the taxi driver, a 15-year-old schoolgirl and an 18-month-old baby who were travelling inside the vehicle. Police are investigating three counts of murder and four of attempted murder.

MEC Ntuli expressed outrage over the incident and vowed that police will leave no stone unturned in investigating this matter and bringing the perpetrators to book.

**“We are utterly disturbed by this cruel and brutal incident. The killing of innocent commuters must not go unpunished and someone needs to take responsibility for this despicable act. A police task team has now taken over the investigation of this case and I have no doubt that soon they will make a breakthrough. We appeal to anyone with information about the incident to come forward and share it with law enforcement agencies. We have also directed our team from the Public Transport Unit to attend to this matter urgently, working with the leadership of the taxi industry, community leaders and all affected stakeholders,”** said Ntuli.

KwaSwayimane and Hammersdale are among some of the areas that government and the police are paying special attention to in building peace and stability. These areas saw heavy police deployment during the festive season. Over the past few months, the Department of Transport and the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, has been working in these areas with a view of resolving the challenges. While progress has been made, there are stubborn elements of criminality that still needs to be addressed.

MEC Ntuli reiterated that championing public transport stability is one of his key priorities and engagements with industry leadership will result in strong collaboration to address conflict in areas that are still engulfed by challenges.

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**“We will do all that is humanly possible to achieve stability in the taxi industry and also ensure that our communities no longer live in fear. Out of the 246 taxi associations, there are very few with challenges. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to lose more lives hence we are pulling all our energies and resources to address the few volatile areas where conflict has been reported. Law enforcement agencies will beef-up their operations and intensify policing for us to proactively intervene and prevent any further loss of lives,”** added Ntuli.

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