



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIRECTORATE:

Private Bag X9043, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200

Communication

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House, 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Tel: 033 355 8624 Fax: 033 355 8632

Media Release

25 March 2021

MEC NKONYENI CONDEMNS TAXI INDUSTRY PROTEST AND STANDOFF ON THE N3 BETWEEN OPERATORS FROM THE HOWICK AND PIETERMARITZBURG TAXI ASSOCIATIONS

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni has condemned the taxi industry protest and standoff over route issues, between operators from the Howick and Pietermaritzburg Taxi Associations, which disrupted the free flow of traffic in the Pietermaritzburg CBD and the busy N3 economic corridor earlier today.

MEC Nkonyeni tasked police to act swiftly and arrest suspects behind this act of criminality. She said any person who disrupts traffic by blocking roads conducts a criminal act and will be charged.

“Police need to implement the rule of law and ensure that those who break the law by obstructing traffic flow are charged. We have also tasked officials from the Department of Transport to urgently meet with the conflict-ridden taxi associations in an attempt to understand the root causes of the problem. The KwaZulu-Natal Government is committed to win the war on taxi violence if we are serious about the development of this industry and the safety of our commuters including all road users. However, out of the 246 taxi associations in KZN very few remain with challenges,” said MEC Nkonyeni.

By late this afternoon, officials from the Department of Transport had met with members of the Zimeleni Taxi Owners Association (Howick) and Pietermaritzburg Long-Distance Taxi Association and an agreement was made that they will return to normal operations and both associations will respect the ongoing legal processes over route disputes.

Law enforcement authorities will continue to monitor the situation and affected routes to prevent bloodshed and loss of innocent lives.

ENDS.