



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Media Statement

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### **MEC NKONYENI HUGELY WELCOMES THE IMPOUNDING OF MORE THAN 72 TAXIS AS PART OF INTENSIFIED ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS TARGETING PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE PROVINCE**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni has hugely welcomed the intensification of operations in the public transport industry, which has resulted in the impounding of more than 72 vehicles in the province.

The operations were conducted in targeted areas in the province, which are experiencing instability in the taxi industry. These are joint operations led by the Department's Public Transport Enforcement Service (known as Operation Shanela), the South African Police Services (SAPS Taxi Task Team), and other enforcement agencies.

The main focus of the operation is Greytown where it is reported that illegal operators have invaded the taxi rank, threatening to take over the taxi ranks and the operations. More than 50 vehicle impounded in Greytown alone and operations are continuing.

Other areas that are being targeted include uMzimkhulu, KwaNongoma, Newcastle, Harding, Kranskop and Mandeni. More operation are planned throughout the province.

In total, 72 vehicle were impounded for operating without permits, 46 were suspended because of their condition and unroadworthiness, including various defects and 47 charges for minor offences were made.

The positive outcome is part of the repurposing and revival of Operation Shanela, which is aimed at strengthening law enforcement in the public transport industry.

Commenting on these developments, MEC Nkonyeni applauded the good work by the joint enforcement agencies, saying government will do everything it takes to stabilise the taxi industry.

"We have taken the decision to repurpose Operation Shanela so that it begins to bite. We are very firm in rooting out all illegalities in the taxi industry. It can no longer continue to be a law unto itself. We are targeting all the areas that are experiencing instability and we are determined to end anarchy in the industry. This is now going to be the order of the day in the province."

"Areas such as Greytown and many others will continue to be monitored very closely and targeted operations will continue to be intensified. We are also determined to end violence and killings in the industry," said Nkonyeni.

As the Festive Season approaches, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has adopted new strategies to build stable public transport and ensure safety on the road.

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