



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Communication

### MEDIA ADVISORY

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#### **MEC HLOMUKA CALLS FOR INCREASED POLICE VISIBILITY FOLLOWING THE KILLING OF FOUR PEOPLE DURING A TAXI RANK SHOOTOUT**

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety, and Liaison Sipho Hlomuka has called for increased deployment of law enforcement to ensure visibility and safety of commuters following the brutal killing of four taxi drivers earlier today.

Preliminary reports from police indicate that unknown men approached a taxi and opened fire on occupants. Four of the occupants died as a result of the shooting, whilst a further four were transported to the hospital with gunshot wounds.

According to police the motive for the shooting is unknown and is subject to an investigation.

However, the Department of Transport is aware of a long-standing dispute involving taxi associations operating between Port Shepstone and the Eastern Cape. There is currently an ongoing court matter around disputes of these associations.

MEC Hlomuka has appealed to the police and all other law enforcement agencies to increase their deployment and visibility to protect the lives of commuters in Port Shepstone.

"As government, we have always stated that there are various avenues to resolve conflict without resorting to violence. Violence has never resolved any conflict. Instead, innocent lives are lost. As government, we shall continue to encourage dialogue in order to reach any common understanding. We have directed the police, the Public Transport Enforcement Unit from the Department of Transport and local traffic authorities to increase visibility and patrols within the premises of the taxi rank. We wish to extend our condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wish those injured a speedy recovery," said Hlomuka.

MEC Hlomuka said he has also directed the KZN Department of Transport Public Regulatory Entity to meet with the Department of Transport in the Eastern Cape and the affected taxi associations in an attempt to de-escalate any tensions and find long-lasting peaceful solutions.

ENDS.