

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**News Editor**

**23 JUNE 2016**

### **MEC CONDEMNS TAXI CONFLICT KILLINGS WITHIN THE KWANDEBELE UNITED LONG DISTANCE TAXI ASSOCIATION.**

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Dumisile Nhlengethwa has called for calm on members of the Kwa-Ndebele United Long Distance Taxi Association (KULDTA). This comes after the shooting incidents which left two members of the association dead with others sustaining serious injuries. She further sent condolences to the families of the deceased and wished the injured a speedy recovery. The latest incident occurred yesterday on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2016 at KwaMhlanga.

The MEC is particularly concerned about the ongoing violence and the disruption of the operation of public transport as well as endangering the lives of the innocent members of the community. The taxi industry has got a myriad of avenues to resolve disputes and violence should not be one of them. "We appeal to all involved to desist from acts of violence and allow us an opportunity to address the challenges facing the association together with the leadership from both sides" she said.

MEC Dumisile Nhlengethwa condemns the violence with strongest possible terms. She will convene an urgent meeting with the affected parties and is contemplating instituting Section 91 of Act 5 of 2009 National Land Transport Act which gives her amongst others authority to close all the routes or taxi ranks or to suspend operating licences of affected operators until all disputes are resolved. Evoking the section is solely meant to protect the lives of commuters who are always caught in the crossfire.

In this regard, MEC Nhlengethwa calls on affected communities to make representations on how they are affected by the prevailing situation in the area. Such representation can be sent through to the office of the Senior Manager: Transport Registration Mr ST Msiza(stmsiza@mpg.gov.za)

**For more information, kindly contact Mr David Nkambule on (013) 766-6553 or 071-608-1059**