



transport

Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATMENT

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Attention: News Editors / Transport Reporters

For Immediate Use

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, DR BONGINKOSI NZIMANDE, STATEMENT ON WESTERN CAPE TAXI INDUSTRY KILLINGS

The Minister of Transport, Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande, welcomes the deployment of the South Africa Police Services (SAPS) task teams, tactical responses and national intervention units to decisively deal with incidences of taxi violence and crime that engulfed the Western Cape in the past weeks.

This comes after violence escalates with more than twenty (20) people having been killed and injured in violence associate with the taxi clashes in Cape Town.

“These killings and injuries of innocent people are symbolic of organised crime and utter disregard of the life of other citizens. Such offences are serious crimes, unjustifiable and punishable by law,” said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande indicated that there are well established disputes mechanisms in the taxi industry which must be adhered to by all operators regardless of their affiliation to any taxi association or grouping. These mechanisms are spelled out clearly in conditions of the granting of operating licences as contained in the National Land Transport Act, as well as on sector

and association protocols which are aimed at harnessing peaceful and cordial relations in the industry.

“We cannot allow a small group of criminal syndicates to hold the taxi industry at ransom in the Western Cape and to threaten the lives of communities, including women and children. We will act decisively and punish harshly those who continue to perpetuate these senseless acts of disdain”.

“South Africa is a Constitutional state, where law and order prevails, it is therefore treasonous for individuals or groupings to threaten the peace and stability of other citizens and disrupt the economic activity of the country,” warned Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande reiterates government commitment to address challenges within the taxi industry and public transport in general.

“Together with the MEC for Transport and Public Works in the Western Cape, we will continue to engage the leadership of the taxi industry to ensure that public transport is cost effective, accessible and always safe, said Minister Nzimande”.

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