

MEC HLOMUKA CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO BLOODSHED IN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT INDUSTRY FOLLOWING THE KILLING OF FIVE PEOPLE IN TONGAAT

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Siphon Hlomuka, has called for the swift arrest of suspected hitmen who ambushed five men in two separate incidents in Tongaat in Durban.

In one incident, three men killed are believed to be protectors of the local taxi boss who is also the chairperson in one of the associations. In another incident, two men were killed.

The taxi boss is believed to have survived however police have moved in to take over the crime scene. Police are also following leads in the second incident.

MEC Hlomuka also condemned the latest spate of killings in the province suspected to be involving the public transport industry in the province.

This week alone, there are about three incidents suspected to be involving the taxi industry.

“We are calling on the police to investigate the Tongaat incidents and all other incidents involving public transport must end. The police are following leads in all these recent cases. We strongly condemn the violent attack. These incidents have once again brought into the spotlight the issue of violence and stability in the public transport sector. As government we will engage with the law enforcement heads and the leadership of the public transport industry to discuss measures to end violence and bloodshed,” said Hlomuka.

The Department of Transport is working hard in stabilizing the taxi industry, with 246 taxi associations enjoying reasonable stability.

Through the Public Regulatory Entity (PRE), government is making number of interventions, including regulating implementing the resolutions of the National Taxi Lekgotla.

Ends

For more information contact Kwanele Ncalane 0796995755 or Thando Biyela 0664897373