



GAUTENG PROVINCE
ROADS AND TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

16 February 2022

To: All Media

Attn: News Editors / Transport Reporters

Department secures court interdict against merger of taxi associations

The Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport has secured a court interdict which prohibits members of the Johannesburg Tembisa Taxi Association (JTTA) and Midrand Taxi Association (MTA) from merging to form Johannesburg Midrand Taxi Association (JMTA).

The Department had approached the court on an urgent basis, seeking to interdict the merger whilst also empowering the South African Police Service (SAPS) to take necessary steps to ensure associations comply with this court order.

The two associations had illegally merged to form the latter, without the requisite approval of the MEC's office and before any stakeholder engagement could take place.

The parties intended to merge their respective associations into a single, new taxi association. This would have led to the integration of routes and operations under the guise of Johannesburg Midrand Taxi Association.

As the merger posed a threat to peace and security in Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni, the MEC approached the South Gauteng High Court on an urgent basis, seeking an interdict to stop the associations from illegally encroaching on routes and operating outside of their operators' licenses, as well as to declare the illegal merger to be null and void.

The merger has left other taxi associations disgruntled, who resorted to violence which led to the loss of two lives, as well as the closure of the R21 Highway in the past week.

"The Court granted an interim order interdicting the associations from operating routes they are not licensed to operate, from instigating, inciting, promoting, or coercing any member of any other taxi association and the general public from committing acts of violence or lawlessness," MEC Jacob Mamabolo explained.

The MEC added that the court order further interdicts the two associations from holding meetings and operating under the name and style of the newly formed Johannesburg

Midrand Taxi Association. It further declared the merger of the two associations to be of no force and effect.

"The court order directs that the two associations return to court on 30 August 2022 to give reasons as to why the interim order should not be made a final order.

"We call upon all associations and interested parties to open criminal cases against any member of any association or of the general public who is found to be contravening the court order," the MEC said.

The Gauteng Provincial Government remains committed to ending the violence in the taxi industry and to assisting the industry in its growth and sustainability, as an important contributor to the economy of the province and the country.

"We remain steadfast in our programme of bringing stability, modernising and corporatizing the taxi industry for it to be a competitive, safe and reliable mode of public transport," said MEC Mamabolo.

ENDS

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport