



MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Attn: News Editors / Transport Reporters

For Immediate Release

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MEC Mamabolo holds consultations with taxi associations following rise in tensions

MEC for Public Transport and Roads Infrastructure Jacob Mamabolo today, 06 July 2020 held a series of consultations with minibus taxi associations following simmering tensions that threaten violence in different parts of Gauteng Province.

Mamabolo met with the Internal Taxi Association (ITA) and Evaton West Taxi Association (EWTA) currently in dispute over a route in Emfuleni Local Municipality.

The two associations have been in a stand-off since October 2019 after they failed to agree on how to share the disputed route.

The organisations approached Mamabolo to mediate in the matter following a breakout in violence which resulted in loss of life.

“I had asked ITA and EWTA, which both fall under provincial structure Gauteng National Taxi Alliance to resolve their issues through negotiations. It is however becoming clear that this has not solved the problem,” said Mamabolo.

The MEC today appointed a team of officials from the Department of Roads and Transport (DRT) to hold consultations with the two associations and come up with a resolution.

“We call on the taxi industry to abandon violence and intimidation when they resolve their problems,” added the MEC.

Mamabolo also held a meeting to introduce the 10-member Mamelodi Amalgamated Taxi Association (MATA) advisory committee to its newly appointed Administrator Hettie Groenewald, who will be assisting with the running of the association’s affairs for three months while preparing for an election of a new executive committee.

During the meeting, the team committed to working together with Ms Groenewald in order to restore peace in Mamelodi.

Since the Department intervened in Mamelodi in June 2020, no incidents of violence have been reported.

These interventions are part of a broader vision by the Gauteng Provincial Government to modernise and rebuild the taxi industry to become a smart, gun-free industry.

The MEC also held a follow up meeting with the interim leadership of the Gauteng Education Transport Service (GETS) as part of the continuous work that the Department is doing to bring stability in the sector.

He has committed to work with GETS to improve the monitoring of the province's Learner Transport Covid-19 Prevention Programme.

As part of the programme, the Department has been registering learner transport operators and issuing them with a unique sticker that will allow them to operate during the lockdown period.

They have also been provided with personal protective equipment to ensure that learners and drivers prevent the spread of COVID-19 through learner transport.

ENDS

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport

For more information, contact the Department on E-mail PressOffice.gpdrdt@gauteng.gov.za

contact Melitah Madiba on 073 644 9935 or Theo Nkonki on 082 719 6404

E-mail PressOffice.gpdrdt@gauteng.gov.za