



## MEDIA STATEMENT

**To:** All Media

**Attn:** News Editors / Transport Reporters

25 October 2020

### **MEC Mamabolo condemns the killing of a motorist in taxi related violence**

Gauteng MEC for Public Transport and Road Infrastructure Mr Jacob Mamabolo has strongly condemned the killing of a motorist following an alleged altercation with a taxi patroller in Crystal Park, Benoni in the City of Ekurhuleni on Thursday, 22 October 2020.

MEC has conveyed his deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of the victim.

The Police arrested a 40-year old man who is believed to have shot and killed the 35-year old motorist at the corner of Birch and Zesfontein Roads.

It is believed that the taxi patroller got into a physical altercation with the motorist after accusing him of illegally operating a taxi service.

It is also alleged that the suspect drew his firearm and fired shots at the deceased who was then certified dead on the scene.

The taxi patroller is due to appear in the Benoni Magistrate Court on Monday, 26 October 2020 on a charge of murder.

The MEC has commended the police for the swift action which led to the arrest of the taxi patroller.

Mamabolo has warned taxi operators that they cannot, in any way, force commuters to use their services as commuters who are cash strapped have reduced their trips due to the slow levels of growth being experienced across different sectors of the economy.

He added that "commuters have an unalienable right to choose a mode of transport to use and exercise their choice".

He further warned that "violence will never be tolerated" and urged all public transport operators to resolve their issues without resorting to violence.

**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport**

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