



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
ROADS AND TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**15 June 2021**

**To:** All Media

**Attn:** News Editors / Transport Reporters

### **Gauteng strongly condemns violence involving alleged taxi squad members**

Gauteng MEC for Public Transport and Roads Infrastructure, Jacob Mamabolo, has strongly condemned a taxi-related shooting allegedly involving taxi squad members from Diepmeadow City Taxi Owners Association and Witwatersrand African Taxi Owners Association in Fordsburg on Monday afternoon.

MEC Mamabolo described the incident - which resulted in one fatality- as a major setback for the provincial government's efforts to bring stability and peace in the taxi industry.

"This incident comes at a time when the province is experiencing relative calm and peace in the industry. It has really dampened an improving environment as we were hopeful the industry was beginning to appreciate the benefits of negotiation processes as opposed to violence," said Mamabolo.

He further raised concerns about the alleged involvement of squad/patrol cars in taxi-related conflicts.

"The increased involvement of taxi squad/patrol cars is really a worrying trend and we call on taxi associations to restrain them as they are alleged to be responsible for most of the violent incidents in the industry. Incidents of illegal impounding of vehicles, attacks on other transport modes as well as violence between associations is alleged to be the work of squad/patrol members often leading to instability and violence. We, therefore, appeal to taxi associations to rein them in to avoid further bloodshed," he remarked.

The MEC also praised law-enforcement officials for their rapid response that led to the arrest of nine (9) suspects and recovery of firearms involved in the shooting.

"We call on law-enforcement agencies to deal harshly with the perpetrators of this violence. Members of the public should be protected against those who are hell-bent on causing instability in the taxi industry and threatening the lives of commuters and

other motorists. We reaffirm our commitment to improve, modernise, integrate and create a gun-free taxi industry,” Mamabolo added.

**Ends!**

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