



MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors / Transport Reporters

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GERMISTON AND ALBERTON TAXI ASSOCIATIONS COMMIT TO RESTORATION OF PEACE FOLLOWING INTIMIDATION OF FEMALE OPERATORS

Ekurhuleni-based minibus taxi associations the Greater Alberton Taxi Association (GATA) and the Greater Germiston Taxi Association (GGTA) have committed themselves to restoring peace and order in the Alberton area following weeks of unrest.

The two organisations had been engaged in violent clashes after it emerged that minibuses owned by widows were being barred from operating along the Thokoza and Germiston route.

This confrontation between the two organisations resulted in a huge inconvenience to commuters in the City of Ekurhuleni.

“I had meetings with GATA and GGTA to mediate and find a solution to the dispute which was starting to have an impact on commuters in Ekurhuleni. Today (09 September 2020) I decided to do a fact-finding exercise at the taxi rank where the confrontations were actually taking place,” Gauteng MEC for Public Transport and Roads Infrastructure Jacob Mamabolo said.

Mamabolo has laid down an ultimatum for the two associations, demanding that they come up with a written agreement committing to end the confrontations.

The MEC has been engaged in mediation since Monday and today left the matter in the purview of the two associations

“Most importantly, I have asked that their agreement should include a clause that reaffirms and confirms gender equality and that it should clearly state that discrimination of widows is not allowed and that women will be respected and protected,” added the MEC.

Mamabolo however cautioned the two associations that he will not hesitate taking drastic measures - that may include the closure of the taxi ranks in which they operate or placing both their executive committees under administration – should they fail to submit the agreement to him by Monday, 14 September 2020.

The MEC is empowered to intervene and restore order in the administration of unstable taxi associations following the North Gauteng High Court order giving him powers to dissolve associations involved in violence and also place them under administration.

This order resulted from the resolution between Gauteng's major minibus taxi structures the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) Gauteng and the Gauteng National Taxi Alliance (GNTA), which seeks to rid the province of taxi violence.

"It is also important to understand that Alberton and Germiston are power houses in the city of Ekurhuleni and if there is a dispute that includes the blockading the roads and not allowing taxis to operate will have a ripple effect on the economy of the Metro and that of our province," added Mamabolo.

Mamabolo said that as part of the 6th administrations' vision to grow the economy of the province the taxi industry, as the number one people mover in Gauteng, needed to modernise and integrate with other modes of transport to make mobility reliable and efficient.

"Peace in the taxi industry is important as it will assist us in building a province of Smart Mobility," concluded Mamabolo.

ENDS!

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport

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