



The Germiston taxi rank came to a standstill as taxi associations go on strike, leaving thousands of commuters stranded. / THULANI MBELE

# Two shot dead after taxi strike threat

Bus company given 'our bread and butter' route

By **Jeanette Chabalala**

Police have confirmed that two people were shot dead in Germiston on the East Rand on Thursday in what is suspected to be related to taxi violence.

"It is reported that the victims were inside the car when they were shot. The motive for the killing cannot be confirmed at this stage, although it is suspected to be re-

lated to taxi violence. Both deceased are said to be members of the local taxi association," Lt Col Mavela Masondo said.

This incident comes as a dispute over routes between taxi associations and a bus company began on Thursday morning, leading to commuters being stranded.

The National Taxi Alliance (NTA) on Thursday threatened a national shutdown should its demands not be met.

Ekurhuleni taxi operations in Tembisa, Germiston, Benoni, Katlehong and Vosloorus were suspended.

NTA spokesperson Theo Malele said a bus company was given a contract to oper-

ate on routes nurtured by the taxi industry. Therefore, the industry should be getting a 30% stake in the contract, he said.

"We developed those routes but authorities have accorded a particular bus company a stake to operate along those routes without having properly engaged us.

"Should the authorities remain intransigent in the matter, the industry will be left with no option other than to escalate [the] current shutdown in Ekurhuleni to national proportions, thus crippling the mobility of the masses... we urge authorities to deal with the taxi industry's resentment as a matter of urgency," Malele said.

Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department spokesperson Kelebogile Thepa said officers were monitoring the situation.

SA National Taxi Council (Santaco) national spokesperson Mmatshikhidi Rebecca Phala said the shutdown follows a disagreement on Wednesday between its patrollers and the bus company.

Santaco Ekurhuleni spokesperson Eddie Mkhonto said patrollers were chasing bus drivers away, saying they should not operate on their routes, so someone called the police, who arrested the patrollers.

"Those routes are our bread and butter." ■ [chabalalaj@sowetan.co.za](mailto:chabalalaj@sowetan.co.za)

## King's lawyers fail to hand in invoices

Premier says detailed documents missing

By **Zimasa Matiwane**

The KwaZulu-Natal government has accused King Misuzulu's lawyers of failing to comply with invoice requirements following their complaints about allegedly being owed R8.5m in legal fees.

"For the record, his majesty's attorneys have to date failed or opted not to provide the state law adviser with detailed invoices for scrutiny as required by law," premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube said in response to questions from Sowetan sister publication TimesLIVE.

Sunday Times reported at the weekend

the provincial government was yet to settle outstanding legal fees of almost R9m stemming from Misuzulu's court battles over the throne and related cases.

Misuzulu's lawyers wrote to Dube-Ncube demanding payment within 30 days failing which they threatened legal action. The king's office expressed concern that this could compromise his right to legal representation.

But according to the premier, the state law adviser sent correspondence to the attorneys representing the king, stating the provincial government is unable to consider payment of invoices for services rendered "unless the services allegedly rendered are described in detail with the appropriate detailed documentation in support of disbursements claimed". TimesLIVE



**Amathole district manager Bhekiswa Mthembu and mayor Anele Ntsangani** / SITHANDIWE VELAPHI

## Mayor defends salary hikes

Dire financial situation at Amathole municipality

By **Sithandiwe Velaphi**

The mayor of the cash-strapped Amathole district municipality in the Eastern Cape has defended the council's decision to grant its councillors a salary hike despite its financial position.

Anele Ntsangani said the councillors were entitled to the salary hike.

In a meeting held at the Mpekweni Beach Resort late in February, the council agreed to a salary hike for councillors.

However, Ntsangani admitted the municipality was still financially unstable.

"Councillors are entitled to have an increment in salaries, in terms of the Government Gazette that was issued by the ministry of co-operative governance and traditional affairs. It's not that they want the increment," Ntsangani said.

But in a media briefing at the municipality's headquarters in Quigney, East London, on Thursday, Ntsangani raised concerns about low revenue collection, saying this was at less than 30% even though they wanted about 80%.

EFF councillor Siphwe Mavuso said: "What we have advised was that we need to allow municipal manager [Bhekiswa Mthembu] to check his finances.

"The sole purpose of councillors being

at ADM [the municipality] is for service delivery and not salaries. We are fine if there is no money for salary increments of councillors, as long as there is money for service delivery."

Ntsangani said they were concerned about the municipality's bad audit outcomes. "We are still facing a plethora of challenges ranging from low collection of revenue to bad audit outcomes."

Ntsangani said the district was dominated by rural people who had no income to pay for services. "We are targeting businesses, farms and government departments so that they pay for services consumed. We are also calling on the middle class like teachers and nurses to pay for services."

Mthembu said the municipality was focused on improving its financial management and revenue collection. "We are not taking our eyes off the ball. We have created a scenario where we are putting more effort on improving our governance systems. We have a debt incentive programme in place to encourage ratepayers to pay for services.

"There are instances where there is default in payments, especially by households and businesses. We are dealing with that in terms of collection. The norm [by National Treasury] for revenue collection is 95%, but looking at our situation it does appear that we might have difficulties. We understand that 30% is too low."

NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY							
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Dear Tenderers							
Kindly note that closing dates for the submission of tender documents for the below-mentioned projects has been extended from the 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 to 03 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at 12H00 due to the Easter Holiday.							
Project No	Project description	Points	CIDB Grading	Technical Enquiries	Compulsory Briefing	Closing date	Extended Closing Date
57502	Appointment of a suitably qualified service provider for the servicing and maintenance of automatic fire sprinklers, smoke and fire detectors at Nkangala District Municipality buildings for the period of 36 months. (Re-advert)	80/20	3SF or Higher	Ms. NM Shabangu – Corporate Services Tel: 013-249-2065/2053 Email: <a href="mailto:shabangum@nkangaladm.gov.za">shabangum@nkangaladm.gov.za</a>	Nkangala District Municipality, 2A Walter Sisulu Street on the 05th March 2024 at 10:00 am	29 March 2024 at 12H00	03 April 2024 at 12H00
57491	Data centre infrastructure maintenance for Nkangala District Municipality for a period of three (3) years. (Re-advert)	80/20	4SF or Higher	Mr. BS Nkosi - Information and Communication Technologies Tel: 013-249-2055 Email: <a href="mailto:nkosibs@nkangaladm.gov.za">nkosibs@nkangaladm.gov.za</a>	Virtually on Microsoft Teams, on the 05th March 2024 14:00 pm. Meeting link can be requested from <a href="mailto:nkosibs@nkangaladm.gov.za">nkosibs@nkangaladm.gov.za</a>	29 March 2024 at 12H00	03 April 2024 at 12H00
52391	Construction of NDM disaster centre in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. (Re-advert)	90/10	7GB or Higher	Mr. Mduduzi Nkosi - Vuxaka Consulting Engineers Tel: 013-591-7122 Email: <a href="mailto:admin@vuxaka.co.za">admin@vuxaka.co.za</a>	Virtually on Microsoft Teams, on the 06th March 2024 10:00 am. Meeting link can be requested from <a href="mailto:mathebuhlanh@nkangaladm.gov.za">mathebuhlanh@nkangaladm.gov.za</a> / <a href="mailto:llobesero@nkangaladm.gov.za">llobesero@nkangaladm.gov.za</a>	29 March 2024 at 12H00	03 April 2024 at 12H00
We hope you will find the above in good order. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.							
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