



Gauteng National Taxi Alliance

GAUTENG NATIONAL TAXI ALLIANCE MEDIA BRIEFING ON THE TORCHING OF TAXIS IN THE JOHANNESBURG CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AND SOWETO ON 16 OCTOBER 2021

19 OCTOBER 2021

The Gauteng National Taxi Alliance an affiliate of the National Taxi Alliance hangs its head in shame following the torching of six taxi on Saturday 16 October 2021 after the outbreak of taxi violence between WATA and Nanduwe Taxi Associations. Four taxis were torched in the Johannesburg Central Business district and two were torched in Soweto.

The outbreak of taxi violence and torching of taxis at one of the tallest skyscrapers in Africa, one of the best architectural building works in the world, the world renown Carlton Centre which is located in the world famous city of Johannesburg is an assault to all the laws of our country and a bad advert for our country and industry. No amount of anger can justify such brazen acts bordering on terrorism and sedition. In this regard, law must take its course without fear, favor or prejudice.

Gauteng National Taxi Alliance condemns the ongoing acts of violence in the strongest possible terms and we take this opportunity to unreservedly apologize, to the commuters who have unjustly and undeservedly continued to bear the brunt of these wanton acts of violence arising out of endless conflicts. We also apologize to the Mayor of Johannesburg and the city, the MEC for Roads and Transport and the department, the Premier of our Province and government, last but not least, our national government for the embarrassment we have caused them in the eyes of the world.

The conflict between WATA and Nanduwe the two affected taxi associations has been going on for a long time and many peace and operational agreements have been signed between the two associations, only to be violated before the ink dries on paper. Regrettably, many lives have been lost, properties destroyed and sadly not a single person has been convicted for the murders and destruction of property. This glaring failure is a serious indictment on our law enforcers and the judiciary and begs the question if the lives of taxi commuters, owners and drivers matter?

It is to be noted that government is not without blame in the origins of this conflict, Through the Taxi Regulation and control process, whereat Taxi Associations, their routes and members were registered, how did we end up with two distinctly different taxi associations both registered on similar routes, ending up with similar operating licenses authority? With all the resources at its disposal, why has it taken government this long to

authoritatively pronounce on the lawful and legal operational rights of each of the two warring taxi associations?

Notwithstanding all the questions and reservations, as the Gauteng National Taxi Alliance, we have come to the conclusion that, working together with MEC Jacob Mamabolo, his department and other organs of state, our colleagues in Santaco Gauteng, the two affected taxi associations and other interested parties this long standing conflict must and will be brought to an end speedily. We commit ourselves to leaving no stone unturned in our quest to come up with a permanent solution for the sake of our best deserving commuters and to that effect a process for a permanent solution will be announced soon.

In the meantime, we call upon the two associations in this conflict, WATA and Nanduwe to desist from any further acts of violence and intimidation to give the solution rendering peace process a chance. We further plead for taxi operations to return to normality, both in Soweto and the Johannesburg CBD, to relieve the inconvenience, fear and anxiety our commuters and taxi drivers the foremost affected parties in this ongoing conflict are going through.

We equally plead with government to permanently deploy nonpartisan law enforcers on the affected taxi routes and taxi ranks to maintain law and order.

In conclusion, we once more profusely apologize to the commuters and the affected communities, and assure them that their comfort and safety in our taxis and taxi ranks remains our number one priority and we will do everything in our power within the laws of our country to ensure the optimization of their safety and comfort.

I thank you.

For further information, please contact our Spokesperson Theo Malele

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