



Gauteng National Taxi Alliance

MEDIA STATEMENT

20 July 2026 - Church Square in Pretoria

The Gauteng Taxi Industry represented by the Gauteng National Taxi Alliance (GNTA) and SANTACO Gauteng Provincial leadership of have called for this media briefing to raise serious Concerns over the conduct of MEC for Roads and Transport Kedibone Diale- Tlabela's Conduct and Failure to Respect Recognized Leadership Structures.

The Gauteng National Taxi Alliance (GNTA), together with the leadership of SANTACO Gauteng, wishes to inform the public, commuters and stakeholders of the reasons behind the current dispute with the Gauteng MEC for Roads and Transport.

At the onset we wish to commend the Gauteng government for the great working relationship since the advent of democracy in our country. Working together with the Gauteng government through the successive MEC s for transport, we made great strides in regulating, formalising and modernising the taxi industry. It is through that harmonious working relationship that we have this unprecedented stability in our industry.

We further wish to applaud the Gauteng government for funding the management and administration of the taxi industry through the Gauteng Taxi Industry Trust charged with managing and accounting for the funds. The funding has enabled the leadership of the taxi industry to have sound administration through having and operating professional offices able to intervene timeously in conflicts and violence where it occurs, deepen democracy in structures of the industry and compensate full time leaders for their loss of income while executing duties they were elected for.

The Gauteng Taxi Industry (GTI) remains committed to working with government to improve public transport. However, this relationship must be based on mutual respect, consultation and adherence to established governance protocols between the taxi industry and government.

The main purpose of this media briefing is to inform the people and the government of Gauteng that our working relationship the MEC Kedibone Diale - Tlabela has seemingly irretrievably broken down, since the MEC decide to engage directly with individual Taxi Associations and Members while bypassing the duly elected Regional and Provincial leadership structures, and thereby flagrantly breaking long established protocols, observed by successive MECs in the past.

The structures of the taxi industry are constitutionally mandated to represent the collective interests of affiliated associations and members. Such actions undermine the governance of the taxi industry, create division amongst associations and weaken organisational discipline.

Further compounding the Gauteng Taxi Industry's concerns is the unilateral decision by the MEC not to allow taxi operators to collect operating licenses from their localities in the regions where they applied from. Instead, the MEC piles up issued operating licenses waiting for her to unilaterally issue a date and venue suitable to her for a ceremonial handover. This happens at enormous costs to our members who must travel from region to region to collect their issued operating licenses.

Many operators were unable to collect their operating licences because of the distances and related costs. Lack of effective communication with Provincial leadership is problematic.

Despite these administrative shortcomings, the Department has proceeded with actions that place operators at risk of losing their operating licences through no fault of their own. The industry believes it is both unfair and unreasonable to penalise operators for failures within the Department's own administrative processes.

The taxi industry has consistently requested that:

1. Through the Provincial offices Regions and Associations must be properly informed before operators are called to collect their operating licences.
2. Sufficient notice must be provided to operators.
3. No operating licence be cancelled where an operator was denied a fair opportunity to collect their licences at the Tolab, they applied at.
4. The Department is obliged to work with recognised Taxi Industry leadership to resolve the OLAS backlog and related administrative challenges.

Unfortunately, these concerns have not been adequately addressed.

The industry is further concerned that:

1. The MEC has failed to respect the constitutional governance structures of the taxi industry.
2. Government engagements are taking place outside recognised leadership structures at the detriment of long established protocols.
3. Decisions affecting thousands of operators are being taken without meaningful consultation.
4. Administrative failures within the Department are unfairly shifting the burden onto taxi operators.

The GTI (Gauteng Taxi Industry) cannot remain silent while democratic governance structures are undermined, and members are prejudiced by administrative failures beyond their control.

We therefore call upon the Honourable MEC to:

1. Respect the recognised provincial leadership structures of the taxi industry to avoid situations like her announcement of the national consolidated fund from the remnants of the TRP and IRPTN funds, before presenting it to the provincial leadership.
2. Suspend any cancellation or adverse action relating to operating licences arising from the flawed OLAS collection process.
3. Engage with the industry's recognised provincial leadership to develop practical solutions that protect both commuters and operators.
4. Restore a relationship founded on consultation, transparency and mutual respect between government and the taxi industry.

Prior to this media briefing, we tried our level best to engage the MEC and the Premier through the following processes:

1. After deadlocking with MEC Diale-Tlabela at an earlier meeting, we were contacted by our associations decrying the MEC's continued request to meet our associations, despite our expressed objections. On 29 June 2026 we wrote to the MEC requesting an urgent meeting with the MEC to sensitise her on the possibility of conflict and violence emanating from her conduct, sadly we did not receive a response.

2. On 10 July 2026 we wrote a letter to the Premier requesting a meeting and we didn't receive any acknowledgement or response.
3. Both the above-mentioned letters are available to the media for reference.

Having failed to get a response or an acknowledgement of our letter as common courtesy would demand from our Premier Hon Panyaza Lusufi, we reiterate our invitation to the Premier to intervene and facilitate a meeting between the leadership of the industry and MEC Kedibone Diale- Tlabela, where we have no doubt in minds that the minds would meet and a lasting solution would be found for the benefit of the commuting public and our members.

However we wish to state categorically that should our cries and pleas be ignored, we will be left without a choice but to organise a protest march to deliver a memorandum of our grievances to the Premier of Gauteng within seven days of this briefing.

The GTI (Gauteng Taxi Industry) remains committed to constructive engagement and believes these matters can be resolved through genuine dialogue. Our objective is not confrontation, but to protect the rights of taxi operators, uphold organisational governance and ensure a stable and efficient public transport system for the people of Gauteng.

We assure commuters that the taxi industry remains committed to providing safe, reliable and uninterrupted public transport services.

Thank You

Gauteng National Taxi Alliance (GNTA)
SANTACO Gauteng Provincial Leadership