

Two Oceans Regional Taxi Council

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24 June 2014

Memorandum of Demands

Service Delivery and Economic Transformation

The safety of commuters, minibus taxi drivers and other road users is being compromised as a direct result of poor service delivery by SAPS, TRAFFIC, METRO and our PROVINCIAL and CITY LEADERSHIP.

Joint operations managed by local authorities and city officials to curb violence as a result of route invasion has not yielded and significant results. perpetrators of violent criminal activity are not being brought to book by officials, and there is little response by government to address resolutions.

Meetings held by the city and province to conduct investigations into crimes, are being held in board rooms and not on the ground. Poor visibility and insufficient ground patrols are begging for opportunistic invasion of allocated Taxi Routes by Legal Operators.

The current operations conducted by the City and provincial officials are ineffective and legal minibus taxi operators are being penalized by the processes used to identify illegal operators.

Operating licence applications are being entertained while illegal operators are already proceeding on routes that have already been allocated. The provincial Regulatory Entity, the Taxi Registrar, the Provincial department of transport and Public Works, City of Cape Town and the Ministerial Department assigned to community safety and local policing authorities are not doing enough to ensure Public Safety.

Helen Zille committed herself and this Province to not only a better life for all, but also focused on her "Better together" slogan. Better for whom exactly? There seems to be a lack of Political will to address the victims of violence and especially Taxi Violence.

Commuter safety is being compromised daily.

The Two Oceans Council has the following findings:

- Vrygrond/Capricorn remains a hot spot for violent attacks on legal Operators. We demand the immediate de-registration of the Vrygrond Taxi Association (VTA) who continue to operate illegally on routes irrespective of their suspended status.
- We are alerting all spheres of government that SANTACO Western Cape is failing to take constitutional action against illegal operators that is affiliated to the regional structures of SANTACO.
- SANTACO is ineffective in resolving conflict within the Two Oceans Region and Western Cape.
- Full council meetings and management meetings are not being held as per their constitution, to address issues and urgent matters of their members with regard to taxi violence and economic empowerment.
- Financial assistance given by provincial government is only benefiting the leadership of SANTACO while regional associations are being excluded. This is done by certain government officials.
- Commuter safety remains a priority for the membership of the Two Oceans council and this has been a priority for all associations in its membership. A recent protest march by the Retreat Taxi Association on the 22 May 2014 to highlight the City of Cape Town, SAPS and

Provincial Government's department's poor response has not received the urgent attention it requires.

- Law enforcement is not evident along the routes that are being infiltrated by illegal operators. SAPS must take full responsibility in the monitoring and enforcing of the law. However, taxi associations appear to be targeted for operating on their own routes.
- What progress has been made to bring to book the perpetrators of the recent spate of shooting in the area where innocent victims have been gunned down?
- The regulation and transformation of the taxi industry is a priority to develop an inclusive transport environment that promotes skills development, commuter safety, job creation and education initiatives. Failure to regulate is a failure to the youth of this province.
- Socio-economic disparity continues to exist, because this elected local government does not have the political will to engage with communities outside of pre-election campaigns. It appears that the Cape Flats communities of Hanover Park, Grassy Park, Lavender Hill, Mitchell's Plain, Ocean View and Capricorn etc are only good enough to engage when a vote is needed.
- Our perception is that local government and the taxi board are aligning themselves with illegal associations and entities, while these associations operate hundred's of illegal taxis on illegal routes. Thus the letter of the law pertaining to routes permits are not being enforced. Illegal taxis on routes are compromising the commuter safety and the livelihood of legal taxi operators.

Mitchells Plain Taxi Forum Concerns:

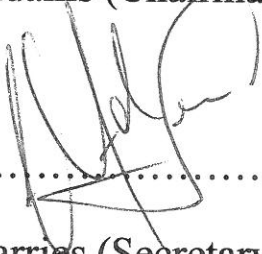
- BRT : N2 Express has now become an internal operation affecting all routes in Mitchells Plain.
- Invasion of Routes – The Leagues, Heinz Park, Eislieben, Samora, London Village.
- Safety and Security-taxi Ranks are becoming an abnormal workplace for Taxi Operators, plagued by Gangers and Drugs.
- Vehicles are being hijacked and monies extorted.

• **Two Oceans Regional Taxi Council Demands:**

1. The immediate de-registration of the VTA that has acted in contravention of the conditions of their suspension and operating licences.
2. A statement of intent by SAPS as to their law enforcement strategy with time frames.
3. The establishment of a commission of inquiry by the Western Cape Premiere to determine why the lack of adequate protection of the Cape Flats exists, and the poor response by local and provincial government departments to the deaths in the Vrygrond/Capricorn area.
4. The establishment of the commission of inquiry regarding the NLTA, Transport Plan for Cape Town, the MyCiti integration and lack of public participation and exclusion of the Taxi industry in subsidized public transport.
5. The inclusion of the Taxi Industry in the Western Cape and communities on the Cape Flats in economic transformation initiatives highlighted in the Premier's State of the Province address on 21 June 2014.
6. To engage our constitutional right to operate in a business environment which is free and fair.
7. The provision of adequate resources for the safety for commuters in the affected areas and ensuring the protection of legally operating vehicles.

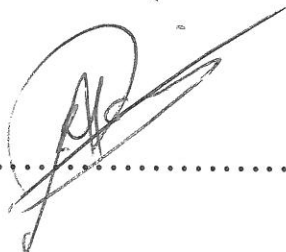
Yours in Transport

M Adams (Chairman of the Two Oceans Regional Taxi Council)



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N Darries (Secretary of the Two Oceans Regional Taxi Council)



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Received by:

Mr. D Grant (MEC for Transport)

DAC Grant 24 June 2014

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Mrs. P De Lille (Honourable Mayor of Cape Town)

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Mr. M Skriker (Provincial Registrar of Taxis)

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Issued by the Two Oceans Taxi Council on the 24 June 2014