

Media Release: Outcomes of special Western Cape Cabinet meeting to discuss ongoing mini-bus taxi strike

7 August 2023

Premier Alan Winde chaired a special provincial Cabinet meeting this morning to report back on the various engagements and interventions that have been under way since the beginning of the mini-bus taxi strike in the Western Cape. The stay-away is being led by the South African National Taxi Council in the Western Cape (SANTACO-WC). Despite urgent negotiations since last Thursday, there is unfortunately still no resolution. Cabinet will continue to meet daily.

“I am angry that as a result of the strike, residents have been unable to get home to their families or to work, school, shops, clinics and other critical sites. Many government services, including health and social development, are having to close facilities and are unable to provide desperately needed services to our communities. Our schooling system is also being affected. This is not acceptable,” the Premier stated.

“We welcome SANTACO’s condemnation of the levels of violence associated with the strike. However, we remain deeply concerned by the violence, loss of life and destruction of property that has been associated with the strike. SANTACO’s leadership must ensure that the violence associated with the strike ends immediately. We note and support the interdict granted by the Western Cape High Court to Golden Arrow Bus Services (GABS) against SANTACO and its affiliates. The Western Cape Government is also pursuing legal action, along with the City of Cape Town, to interdict the violence”.

The Premier continued, *“The ongoing violence is making it very difficult for negotiations to proceed. We are a government that stands for the rule of law. A withdrawal of services due to citizens in terms of their constitutional rights, as a result of violence, intimidation*

and destruction of property, cannot be justified. This is non-negotiable. We want to bring all stakeholders back to the negotiations, but this has to happen in an environment of calm. We must not allow this issue to be politicised, as this will only further complicate matters."

The safety of residents and road users is of paramount importance. All law enforcement agencies have been mobilised since the strike was called. The maximum number of personnel and resources have been deployed to respond to acts of violence and protect what services can be offered amid the industrial action.

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (POCS) notes the current situation regarding the minibus taxi strike, and that there have been pockets of violence and criminal activity that has erupted.

This is an appeal to all Community Police Forums and Neighbourhood Watches to urgently alert their local SAPS to any possible criminal activity, if possible, with a specific address or GPS location.

Depending on the nature of your emergency, you can call the appropriate emergency number below:

Ambulance	10177
City of Cape Town General Emergency	107
Cell Phone Emergency	112 (MTN, Vodacom, Cell C and Telkom)
City of Cape Town Headquarters	Landline: 021 480 7700 Cell phone:107

For more emergency contact information, please visit the Western Cape Government official website by clicking:

<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/general-publication/know-who-you-can-call-emergency>

The Department looks forward to continuing the partnership with all its stakeholders to improve safety in our communities **FOR YOU.**

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