
Delft close to high risk status

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IN A last ditch effort to avert declaring Delft a high risk area for public transport, the department of transport and public works has issued independent mediators the task of finding a peaceful resolution over taxi violence in the area.

Scores of Cape Amalgamated Taxi Association drivers have suspended their operations due to an apparent dispute with the Delft Cape Town Taxi Association over control of taxi routes in the area.

Two taxi drivers were shot dead in Delft and Philippi East last week and authorities are investigating whether the incidents are linked.

The situation remains volatile and police have been deployed to monitor the situation.

Yesterday, Delft Main Road was closed due to protesting drivers.

Western Cape MEC for transport and public works Donald Grant said the department was working closely with the SAPS, traffic authorities and the

city to address the situation in Delft.

“I will be placing a notice in the Government Gazette in terms of Section 91 of the National Land Transport Act, in which I state my intention to declare Delft a high risk area for public transport,” Grant said.

Should the area be declared a high risk area, the Provincial Regulatory Entity will be empowered to suspend operating licences, to close certain taxi ranks and to suspend operations by minibus taxis on identified routes. This step would severely hamper public transport in the area.

“In order to avert such drastic measures, my department has, in the meantime, appointed a group of seasoned independent mediators to bring all parties involved in the conflict in Delft to the table and get them to cease hostilities and work towards a peaceful resolution.”

Traffic officials and police will maintain a presence in the area and so far about 50 taxis have been impounded for illegal operations in Delft and Cape Town station deck.