

# siyagibela taxiWorld

July - 30 August 2026

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# Why not grant the taxi industry indefinite operating licences?



**W**e welcome government's decision to extend South African driving licences from five to 10 years. It is encouraging to see government listening to motorists, who have long complained about frequent renewals. Five years is simply not a long enough validity period.

This decision should ease pressure on the licensing system while helping licence holders save on renewal fees and avoid long queues at licensing departments.

If government can recognise the economic benefits of extending driving-licence validity, it should consider doing the same for the taxi industry by restoring indefinite taxi operating permits.

**T**his would be one of the most meaningful steps government could take for the country's most important public transport sector, especially while the taxi industry remains unsubsidised.

We remain hopeful, as government is proving to be more responsive, considerate and caring.

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**taxiWorld** ONLINE News

# Mabija shapes taxi industry's future as Eastern Cape leader and national chairperson

**L**ungiswa Mfana-Mabija is the new force in taxi industry leadership. Elected unopposed in the Eastern Cape, she has strengthened her position as SANTACO's first woman national chairperson following the recent national elective conference held at the Birchwood Conference Centre in Boksburg, Ekurhuleni.

When Mabija was announced as chairperson of the national taxi industry's umbrella body, OR Tambo Hall erupted in ululation as delegates welcomed a new era and a more diverse generation of SANTACO leadership.

Delegates congratulated her and urged her to stand firm in defending ordinary taxi operators.

"You are not chairperson of women's affairs, but a leader for all taxi operators in your role as national chairperson," one delegate remarked.

## Business Support

Halfway Toyota executive Sizwe Mahlangu congratulated Mabija as SANTACO's first national chairwoman and encouraged her to serve the taxi industry through her strategic oversight of the organisation's business activities and governance structures.

"We wish her well in her new role and hope she has settled in and become familiar with the challenges facing her office. These include operating licences, strengthening the organisation's capacity to respond to operators' concerns, managing expectations from financial institutions, maintaining government relations, engaging OEMs and advancing the long-awaited taxi subsidy," Mahlangu said.



## Balancing roles

Mabija told TaxiWorld that she balances her national and provincial responsibilities with ease because the national chairperson role is not full time.

"If it were a full-time position, I would have had to relocate closer to the national office in Pretoria," she said.

According to the SANTACO constitution, only the president, secretary and treasurer serve full time.

She said SANTACO's constitution clearly defines her role and responsibilities, empowering her to oversee sub-committees and prepare reports for the governing structures to consider and implement.

"I understand the responsibilities of serving as chairperson at both national and provincial level, and what my office requires under SANTACO's constitution," she said.

"As SANTACO national chairperson, I chair several sub-committees, including those responsible for business, governance, policy and disciplinary matters," she said.

## First national women chairperson

Asked about the significance of becoming the first woman to lead SANTACO as the organisation marks its 25th anniversary, she said:

"Yes, becoming the first woman to serve as SANTACO chairperson is significant in a male-dominated executive. However, I am not the first woman to serve in the national structure's highest decision-making body. Other women came before me, so women's representation did not begin with me. What is historic is that this office is now held by a woman," she said.

She cited Dudu Maphumulo, who has represented the women's desk in SANTACO's national structures for the past eight years, serving in the National Office Bearers, National Executive Committee and Management Committee.

She said she has not experienced discrimination or disrespect as a woman since taking up both roles.

"When I arrived, I was welcomed and valued. I felt I would be judged by my work and character, not my gender. I also do not expect special treatment because I am a woman," she said.

Mabija said SANTACO's national leadership has been welcoming and supportive.

Her province experienced instability and leadership disputes between 2022 and 2026, but stability returned after she assumed leadership.

“Before 2022, when our province was led by uMama Mahashe, a woman leader, it did not experience taxi-related violence or killings. The same was true during my leadership. People therefore have hope and confidence in women’s leadership in the province, which is why I was brought back uncontested,” she said.

The Eastern Cape leader has shown tenacity and determination in defending the rights of taxi operators and commuters, making her rise to senior positions unsurprising to many.

### Industry Support

Mabija said the support she received at both the SANTACO provincial and national elective conferences, where she was elevated to the powerful roles, reflects the trust and confidence taxi operators have in her leadership at both national and provincial level.

“We are proud to see her recognised and appointed to senior leadership in the taxi industry. Her

work ethic and leadership earned her a national office position. We expected it, and it happened,” said Macdonald Ntantiso, deputy chairperson of the Port Elizabeth and District Taxi Association.

Eastern Cape taxi mother bodies, including Border Alliance, Uncedo, the Eastern Cape Taxi Association and the Mthatha Owners Taxi Association, have thrown their support behind Mabija’s leadership.

Ntsikelelo Gaehler and Songezo Mpanza, leaders of the influential Uncedo and Border Alliance taxi bodies, endorsed Mabija’s leadership and encouraged her “to foster unity, serve operators and drive change and growth in the industry”.

### Mentorship

Mabija was mentored for years by the late Eastern Cape SANTACO provincial leader uMama Mahashe, fondly remembered as the region’s mother of the taxi industry, who helped prepare her for the demanding role she now holds in the male-dominated sector.

She says her leadership is not defined by gender; “abilities speak for themselves”.

Mabija said her focus is on driving change in her province while supporting the national office in speeding up service delivery for operators.

Her priorities include restoring indefinite taxi permits, reviewing the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme to better benefit operators and ensuring the promised taxi subsidy is implemented without delay.

### Technology & Taxi Industry

She said the taxi industry is at a crossroads and must embrace technology or risk being left behind.

“It is time for the taxi industry to embrace technology. We have no alternative. The speed at which we adapt to technological changes will determine how we remain relevant and competitive in the transport business in general,” she said.

### Relations

Despite holding influential positions as SANTACO national chairperson and provincial chairperson of one of the country’s largest taxi regions, Mabija remains humble and accessible to ordinary taxi operators and commuters alike.

## 2026 Eastern Cape Provincial Leadership:



- Lungiswa Mabija - Chairperson
- Mxolisi Ncoliwe - First Deputy Chairperson
- Sandile Sefolo - Second Deputy Chairperson
- Mtutuzeli Madwarha - Secretary
- Nico Moshoeshoe - First Deputy Secretary

- Bongani Seti - Second Deputy Secretary
- Khanyisile Royi - Treasurer
- Themba Mnyamana - Deputy Treasurer
- Johnson Yawa - Training Officer
- Khaya Mpeqeka - Public Relations Officer

# University of KZN and national office praise taxi operators' professionalism at major sporting event



**K**ZN SANTACO successfully hosted its annual sports day at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Edgewood Campus in Pinetown recently hosted by the Santaco Durban West Regional Taxi Council, the three-day event attracted strong attendance, with all 17 Santaco regions competing in soccer, netball, Umlabalala, tug of war, athletics and aerobics.

Welcoming guests and participants, Sthombe Sithebe, Durban West Region women's chairperson, thanked provincial taxi industry chairperson Boy Zondi and Durban West Regional chairperson ZK Mkhize for bringing the games to her region and uniting taxi operators across the province.

KZN Santaco office manager Sifiso Shangase said this year's provincial taxi games improved on last year's event.

"This year, we changed the format by extending the games from two days to three," he said.

The games ran from Friday to Sunday, with more than 17 regions competing across all sporting codes.

Shangase said the longer programme gave players more time to rest, prepare and perform, easing the pressure of the previous two-day format.

This year, Santaco partnered with the KZN Government Provincial Regulatory Entity, which issues operating licences, to vet and verify eligible taxi operators.

According to Shangase, the process ensured that participants submitted by regional taxi associations were properly qualified, following past concerns about players misrepresenting their credentials.

"There had been widespread cheating, with player cards issued to people who did not qualify, including non-taxi operators.

"In some cases, regions brought in young players to represent them, and some even went on to win," he said.

He said verification begins before the games, when regions submit participant names for each sporting code, including netball, soccer, traditional games, athletics, tug of war and aerobics. The programme is designed to include a broad range of participants.

Aerobics was open to everyone and formed part of SANTACO's efforts to promote healthy living, fitness and social cohesion.

Shangase described the partnership with University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) as a first for the organisation, saying Edgewood Campus offered an ideal venue with suitable sport-

ing facilities.

He said the successful event helped challenge negative perceptions of the taxi industry, with the university impressed by the professionalism and conduct of the operators.

He added that taxi industry security teams helped ensure compliance with public firearm regulations. Several business partners also took part and enjoyed the programme alongside the operators.

Looking ahead, Shangase said Santaco hopes to expand the sports programme into inter-provincial games that promote social cohesion and healthy living among taxi operators nationwide.

Shakes Mayekani, SANTACO national deputy secretary, said the national office had tasked him with observing the KZN games and studying how they could be replicated in other provinces as the organisation seeks to "promote unity through sport".

Other provinces, including the Free State, sent representatives to support their KZN counterparts.

Joe Matlatsi, SANTACO Free State secretary, said his region would benefit from KZN leadership's organisational expertise in hosting successful games.

High-profile dignitaries at the games included Prince Nhlakapho Zulu, a member of the Zulu royal family, SANTACO provincial chairperson Boy Zondi, SANTACO national deputy secretary Shakes Mayekani, ZK Mkhize Durban West Regional chairperson, government and business representatives.

*End:*



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| CFAO Mobility Toyota Randfontein        | 011 412 3049 | CFAO Mobility Toyota Welkom           | 057 916 8496 |



# Winners' category: Scoreboard

## Umlabalaba (Traditional Games)

### Males

1. Amajuba - B Mdlalose (19)
2. Ningizimu 1 - PS. Ngongo (10)
3. M.H Gutshwa (9)

### Females

1. Ningizimu 1 - V.H Khanyie (12)
2. Amajuba - H Khoza (9)
3. Uthukela - P Mazibuko (8)

## Soccer Results:

Champions: Zululand Region

1st Runners up: Durban Central Region

2nd Runners up: ILembe

## Netball Results:

Champions: Majuba Region

1st Runners up: Mzinyathi Region

2nd Runners up:



## Athletics

### Female: Finals 100m

- 1st Durban Central Region - N. Vezi - 14:71
- 2nd Uthukela Region - N. Kheswa - 16:05
- 3rd Durban Central - N. Ndlovu - 16:96

### Male: Finals 100m

- 1st Ilembe Region - P. Naidoo - 10:58
- 2nd Amajuba Region - T. Lushaba - 11:05
- 3rd Zululand - M.P Nxumalo - 11:22

### Female: Finals 200m

- 1st Uthukela - N. kheswa - 36:79
- 2nd Durban West - N. Ngcobo - 40:93
- 3rd Durban Central - K. Magwaza - 41:46

### Male: Finals 200m

- 1st Ilembe Region - P. Naidoo - 26:98
- 2nd Zululand Region - T. Phakathi - 26:64
- 3rd Umzinyathi - N. Mvulane - 29:24

### Male: Finals 400m

- 1st Harry Gwala - DS. Dlamini - 1:11:14
- 2nd Amajuba - W. Hadebe - 1:21:72
- 3rd Zululand - N. Mvulane - 1: 42:8

### Female: Finals Relay 4 x 100m

- 1st Durban West - Team - 1:11:25
- 2nd Uthukela - Team - 1:13:59
- 3rd Zululand - Team - 1:18:80
- 4th Durban Central - Team - 1:19:34

### Male: Finals Relay 4 x 100m

- 1st Zululand - Team - 50:67
- Amajuba - Team - 51:61
- Umzinyathi - Team - 1:08:84

### Male: Finals 10 000m

- 1st UGU - Cornelius Cele 47:59:78





## WHO WE ARE

Skys The Limit Training Academy is a professional training and skills development institution committed to empowering individuals, organisations, communities, and the transport industry through quality education and practical training solutions.

Formerly known as the KZN Taxi and Commuter Corporation (KZNTCC), the Academy has grown into a respected institution that promotes professionalism, safety, leadership, compliance, entrepreneurship, and community development across South Africa.

We work closely with industry stakeholders, government institutions, municipalities, and regulatory authorities to ensure relevant, impactful, and nationally aligned training programmes.



## OUR MISSION

To provide quality education, skills development, leadership training, and empowerment programmes that promote professional growth, safer communities, and sustainable economic participation.

## OUR VISION

To become a leading national centre of excellence in education, transport training, leadership development, and community empowerment across South Africa.

## WHAT WE OFFER

We offer accredited and non-accredited programmes including short courses, long courses, skills development programmes, leadership development, mentorship, workplace readiness training, and compliance programmes.

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- ✓ Executive & Governance Training
- ✓ Customer Service Excellence
- ✓ First Aid & Health & Safety
- ✓ Defensive Driving
- ✓ Road Safety Awareness
- ✓ Entrepreneurship & Business Management
- ✓ Conflict Resolution
- ✓ Women Empowerment Programmes
- ✓ Professional Driver Mentorship
- ✓ Internships & Learnerships
- ✓ Transport Compliance Training
- ✓ HSSE Training



## OUR IMPACT

Skys The Limit Training Academy continues to positively impact communities and industries through education, empowerment, and professional development.

Thousands of participants have benefited from our programmes across KwaZulu-Natal and beyond through leadership development, driver empowerment, skills transfer, women empowerment initiatives, community upliftment, and workplace readiness programmes.



## OUR PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

- Transport Education Training Authority (TETA)
- QCTO Quality Assurance Structures
- Department of Transport
- Municipalities
- Government Departments
- SANTACO Structures
- Industry Associations
- Community Organisations
- Private Sector Partners

## OUR TRAINING FOOTPRINT

- eThekweni – Durban
- uMgungundlovu – Pietermaritzburg
- Amajuba – Newcastle
- Harry Gwala – Ixopo
- iLembe – Stanger
- King Cetshwayo – Empangeni
- Mthonjaneni – Melmoth
- Ugu – Sea Park
- uMkhanyakude – Hluhluwe
- uMzinyathi – Greytown
- uThukela – Ladysmith
- Zululand – Vryheid

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# ESTA Gives Majola Family New Home



**T**he Edendale Sigodini Taxi Association (ESTA) honoured the late Mduduzi Majola by rebuilding his family home, which criminals had destroyed while terrorising the community and taxi operators.

ESTA secretary Sifiso Shangase said the handover fulfilled a promise to the Majola family after Majola, an active Community Policing Forum (CPF) member in greater Edendale, confronted the criminals and urged them to stop robbing residents.

Majola was later targeted for his bravery, shot several times at home and left for dead after the house was set alight while he was inside.

“Mr Majola was widely respected for his dedication to community safety and fighting crime as a Community Policing Forum member.

“His family home was set alight, and he sustained multiple gunshot wounds. Despite treatment, he later died from his injuries,” Shangase said.

Themba Lyons thanked the Majola family for their patience during the handover.

Lyons said earlier promises to rebuild the home were unfulfilled until taxi operators pooled resources to restore the family’s dignity.

“In recognition of his selfless service, ESTA rebuilt the Majola family home to restore the family’s dignity,” he said.

Speaking for the family, Sbono Majola thanked the taxi industry for honouring his brother’s role in making the community safer and rebuilding their home.

Member of Parliament (NCOP) Mxoliso Kaunda donated furniture for the house, while Councillor Nathi Moseou contributed blankets and decorative gifts.

*Bishop Solly MSIZA*

## Leadership with Integrity: Building Businesses That Last

True leadership is defined by character, vision, and the ability to inspire people toward a shared purpose.

Great leaders know that success starts with integrity. By being honest, keeping their promises, and treating people with fairness and respect, they build trust—the foundation of every successful business. Proverbs 11:3 reminds us, “The integrity of the upright guides them.”

Vision is also essential to leadership. Every thriving organisation needs a leader who can look beyond today’s challenges and prepare for tomorrow’s opportunities. Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Effective leaders invest in people. Employees are not just resources; they are an organisation’s greatest asset. Leaders who mentor, encourage, and develop their teams build a culture of excellence and innovation.

Humility is another mark of outstanding leadership. Wise leaders listen, welcome constructive feedback, and remain willing to learn from others. Jesus taught this principle in Matthew 20:26: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”

Business leaders must also be resilient. Every organisation faces setbacks, economic uncertainty, and unexpected challenges. Successful leaders are not those who avoid difficulty, but those who persevere, adapt, and move forward with faith and determination.

Leaders should also remember that success brings responsibility. Ethical leadership creates a legacy that reaches far beyond financial results.

Key Scripture: “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” — Proverbs 16:3



# Government approves 10-year driving licence validity as taxi operators seek action on operating licences

**M**inister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said government has approved extending the validity of South African driving licences from five to 10 years.

Ntshavheni said the extension will apply to light motor vehicle licence codes A, A1, B and EB.

Licences for heavy commercial and public transport vehicles will continue to be renewed every two or five years.

She said Parliament must first amend the law before the change can take effect.

Until then, motorists must continue renewing expired licence cards, she said.

National Taxi Alliance (NTA) welcomed the extension for ordinary drivers and urged government to also address the validity of taxi operating licences.

“We welcome Cabinet’s decision to extend light vehicle driving licences to 10 years,” said NTA spokesperson Theo Malele.

Malele urged government to respond to taxi operators’ calls for taxi operating licences to be valid indefinitely.

“Taxi operators have been calling for the return of indefinite operating licences,” he said.

Under the National Land Transport Act (NLTA), current regulations provide for time-bound operating licences valid for up to five years.

He said the driving licence extension “shows government can act when there is political will”.

“We want operating licences to be issued over the counter, carry the monetary value of a business licence and remain valid indefinitely,” he said.

# Gauteng taxi industry, MEC ease tensions after dispute



**T**he Gauteng Taxi Industry (GTI), represented by GNTA and SANTACO Gauteng, accused Gauteng Roads and Transport MEC Kedibone Diale-Tlabela of ignoring recognised leadership structures, according to a GTI statement after a 20 July press conference.

GNTA and SANTACO Gauteng leaders said they wanted to explain their dispute with the MEC to the public, commuters and stakeholders.

The industry said it had worked with past transport MECs to regulate, formalise and modernise the taxi sector.

The Gauteng government funds industry management through the Gauteng Taxi Industry Trust, which manages and accounts for the money.

NTA spokesperson Theo Malele said the funding was well spent.

"The funding helps leaders run offices, respond to conflict,

strengthen internal democracy and compensate full-time leaders for lost income," he said.

Malele said government asked how the funds were used, but the trust's board of trustees—not the taxi industry—must account to the MEC.

"The board is ready to give the MEC a full report, including on the Shesha project, which still needs an overhaul," he said.

The industry said ties with MEC Diale-Tlabela had recently strained, but it wanted lasting solutions because government remained a key partner.

Malele cited allegations that the MEC dealt directly with individual associations and members, bypassing elected regional and provincial structures.

The GTI also criticised the MEC's decision to stop operators collecting licences in their application regions.

It accused her of centralising licence issuing and withhold-

ing licences until a ceremonial handover.

Diale-Tlabela said the backlog had been reduced, with more than 3,000 licences issued since November 2025.

"We achieved this by improving the department's administrative and internal capacity," she told eNCA.

"When we took office, the industry had raised these challenges, and we focused on resolving them."

"The backlog has now been cleared, which is a major milestone," she said.

Malele welcomed progress on licence backlogs but urged the department to do more.

By publication, relations had normalised and the planned taxi march was suspended.

"We have agreed to end hostilities and meet within 14 days to resolve all issues raised with her office," Malele said.

# Gibela Namela Holdings and Jozi My Jozi partner to strengthen Johannesburg's taxi industry

**G**ibela Namela Holdings, the Greater Johannesburg taxi industry body, and citizen-led NPC Jozi My Jozi (JMJ) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to roll out interventions that will strengthen Johannesburg's minibus taxi industry.

The agreement follows 18 months of extensive discussions and forms part of Project Unite, one of Jozi My Jozi's Public Transit Revitalisation programmes.

The programme works with taxi associations to improve public transport support systems, including taxi rank safety and cleanliness, driver well-being, and skills development.

The partnership aims to create



a more structured operating environment that benefits the industry and the millions of commuters who rely on minibus taxis daily.

"The taxi industry is one of Johannesburg's most important economic sectors," says Inno-

cent Mabusela, CEO of Jozi My Jozi.

"Our role is to work alongside the industry to build systems that strengthen it over time," Mabusela said.

"As the CoJ taxi industry, we believe this partnership with Jozi My Jozi will deliver valuable initiatives that reshape this extensive industry, from associations and operators to taxi rank infrastructure and commuters," says Themba Gcabashe, Gibela Namela Holdings' Business Development Executive.

Lutando Maboza, Executive Director: City of Johannesburg Transport, said the city supports the partnership as part of its efforts to improve the overall public transport user experience.

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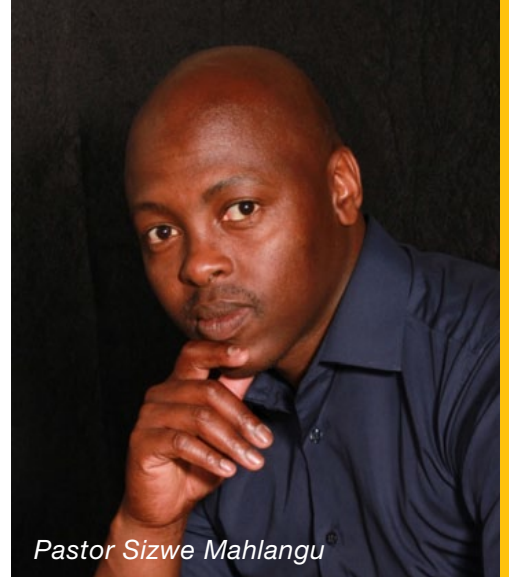
# Sport is a lifelong journey

We are proud of the taxi industry's growing presence in communities through activities that encourage healthy lifestyles, including sporting events organized by its members in partnership with stakeholder groups that support the industry.

We congratulate the Santaco Durban West region for hosting one of the most memorable sporting events on KZN Santaco's annual calendar. The event brings taxi operators from across the province together to celebrate the industry's achievements through sport, while giving them a platform to showcase their talents, unwind, connect and promote unity, social cohesion and healthy living.

These men and women work tirelessly to provide South Africans with efficient, safe and affordable public transport, and they deserve the opportunity to reconnect with their God-given sporting talents.

We thank the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the provincial government, business partners, and the regional and provincial office staff for their support in making the taxi industry's games a success.



Pastor Sizwe Mahlangu

# I Will See the Goodness of the Lord

The South African taxi industry is facing one of its toughest periods, as rising costs, economic pressure, lower consumer spending, and shifting market conditions continue to test the resilience of operators and stakeholders.

Even in uncertainty, Psalm 27:13 encourages us: "I would have lost heart unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

This scripture reminds us that hardship does not define our future. The taxi industry has long been shaped by perseverance, hard work, and the resolve to keep moving forward despite adversity.

As we confront today's challenges, let us stay hopeful and committed to excellence, innovation, and unity. Better days are possible when we refuse to lose heart and continue serving our communities with dedication.

May we look beyond our current difficulties and believe that, together, we will see the goodness of the Lord in our industry and our nation.

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