



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 03 SEPTEMBER 2008
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

**MEC CELE URGES POLICE OFFICERS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND SHOOT HARD AT
CRIMINALS**

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has urged police officers not to die with guns in their pockets but instead shoot to kill at criminals this follows the brutal killing of the Senior Superintendent France Bothma in KwaMashu K section last night (02/09/08). Bothma's killing comes exactly six days after a brutal and orchestrated killing of Supt Chonco in KwaDukuza last week; both officers were killed in the call of duty.

According to the police report it is alleged that the three police officials noticed a black VW Polo parked in "K" Section that aroused their suspicions. They immediately turned around and pulled up behind the suspect's vehicle. Whilst talking to the driver another suspect got out of the vehicle with a high calibre rifle and opened fire on the policemen. Policemen returned fire and the suspects fled in their vehicle. As the dust settled, the two policemen discovered that Supt Bothma was fatally wounded.

A passionate policeman with extremely good people skills described by his colleagues, Supt Bothma(44) was a seasoned officer with 26 years service in the SAPS. He was stationed at SAPS Inanda and was seconded to the Provincial Task team as a Team Leader. The suspects are still at large, however a murder case is opened and the matter is being investigated by the Durban Organised Crime Unit.

Meanwhile Cele has applauded police on their promising lead to arrest suspects who have murdered the late Supt. Zethembe Chonco. In the early hours of today members of the Durban

COMMUNICATION SUPPORT DIRECTORATE

Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 Republic of South Africa
Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Republic of South Africa
Tel: (27) (33) 355 8624 Fax: (27) (33) 355 8632
Internet: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za/home.htm>

Organised Crime Unit shot and killed suspected police killer Lee Buthelezi (28). Buthelezi was also wanted on a murder case that was being investigated by Supt Chonco.

"I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and friends. Supt Bothma's untimely death came as a shock to all of us. We cannot train good officers to fill the cemetery – police officers must ensure that they protect themselves and put criminals behind bars or to the nearest mortuary. We will leave no stone unturned in making sure that the culprits face the full might of the law, SAPS will work tirelessly to arrest those responsible for the ruthless killings," Cele said.

ENDS.

MEDIA CONTACT: Nonkululeko Mbatha (083 6456 252)

COMMUNICATION SUPPORT DIRECTORATE

Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 Republic of South Africa

Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Republic of South Africa

Tel: (27) (33) 355 8624 Fax: (27) (33) 355 8632

Internet: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za/home.htm>