MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS, REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

DATE: 21 May 2008

MEC CELE STRONGLY CONDEMNS ATTACKS IN DALTON

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has robustly condemned the attacks in Dalton in Ethekwini yesterday evening, this follows reports that a group of people viciously invaded and attacked a tavern and damaged a car owned by a foreigner which is situated not far from the Dalton hostel.

Speaking on his capacity as the MEC responsible to maintain law and order in the province, Cele has thrown his full weight in condemning the attacks but further stated that the culprits are members of the IFP who were attending their branch meeting. However Cele has commended the leadership of the IFP for cooperating with police to remedy the situation.

"The IFP leadership displayed responsible action by assisting members of the SAPS in its search to apprehend the culprits and to instill discipline to its members". "Our mandate is to maintain law and order and we will leave no stone unturned in doing justice to our mandate, our province will not be used as a platform for xenophobic attacks hence maximum police visibility and safety measures are implemented to safeguard troublesome areas of the province, said Cele.

"These are purely criminal activities and they will be dealt with decisively in ensuring that xenophobic attacks are not used as scapegoats for criminals who want to serve their own selfish interests", Cele concluded.

Police are investigating a case of public violence against a mob of attackers and no arrests have been made at this stage.

Media contact: Nonkululeko Mbatha 083 645 6252