



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

MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 27 AUGUST 2008
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC CELE SERIOUSLY CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF THE KRANSKOP STATION COMMISSIONER
SUPERINTENDENT ZETHEMBE CHONCO

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele strongly condemns the orchestrated killing of the Kranskop Superintendent Zethembe Chonco at Kwa-Maphumulo today (27/08/08) at 10H30.

According to the police report received it is alleged that Chonco and his colleagues from the Public Order Policing (POP) were escorting prisoners from Kranskop to Stanger Magistrate court in a convoy of three police vehicles. Mr. Chonco was driving in the vehicle that was last in the convoy and as they passed a river bridge his car was ambushed by armed men who were hiding in the nearby bushes.

Chonco was shot through the windscreen and he sustained a gun shot wound to his head and he was confirmed dead at the scene. It is alleged that another member in his company, Inspector Khanyile sustained serious gun shot wounds to his body and was rushed to an undisclosed hospital in a critical condition. A body which is believed to be one of the perpetrators was found near scene. Police are investigating the matter and have opened a murder and attempted murder case.

"I wish to express my deepest condolences to the Chonco family and his colleagues. This ruthless killing was brutal and unnecessary. Chonco was one of the most effective and efficient policemen in the Province. Earlier during the course of this year he was awarded with the best police award in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. The SAPS will make sure that they have sleepless nights in ensuring that these hooligans are caught and put away," 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>