



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

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC CELE COMMENDS THE SWIFT MOVE BY THE SAPS AT THE DURBAN ARMED ROBBERY

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Bheki Cele has commended the SAPS on the swift move in apprehending culprits during an armed robbery in Durban where eight suspects were gunned down and killed after an extensive exchange of gun shots between police and the suspects which also resulted in the injury of innocent civilians.

"Arresting criminals will forever be the first option for police at the crime scene however when criminals threaten the lives of the police and further open fire then the police must not hesitate to defend themselves and defend the lives of the communities they serve. It is quite an unfortunate situation that innocent civilians' sustained serious injuries during the shoot out. Police deployment is always aimed at maintaining law and order at all times," said Cele.

Preliminary reports have revealed that eight suspects were shot dead after an armed robbery at Chicago Meat Butchery in Durban. It is alleged that the suspects were driving an Opel Corsa bakkie whilst escaping with an undisclosed amount of money. Coincidentally the police contingent was already deployed in the area; hence the suspects started to shoot randomly trying to make way for their escape. While the suspects were approaching N3 Western freeway still firing shots at the police, they were stopped at Maydon and Francois road intersection where all hell broke loose and all eight of them were shot and killed on scene.

"Whenever criminals reach for their guns they will not hesitate to shoot and kill anyone who is on their way, therefore the police must act decisively. Criminals have declared war against police and police are responding accordingly by putting criminals behind bars or to the nearest cemetery. The police must continue to vigorously defend the weak at all levels," Cele concluded.

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