

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

28 September, 2009

### **POLICE TASK TEAM FOR KENNEDY ROAD ON CARDS AFTER WEEKEND KILLINGS**

THE KWAZULU-NATAL Provincial Government has moved swiftly to liberate a Durban community (Kennedy Road) that had been placed on an illegal curfew, wherein residents had been forced to stop watching television, walking or cooking after seven at night.

Matters came to head at the weekend when a group of men brandishing an assortment of weapons including assegais, knobkerries, spears and guns attacked and killed two people. Scores of others were injured.

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Willies Mchunu visited the area yesterday. Mchunu directed that the SAPS Provincial Commissioner and the Provincial Department of Community Safety & Liaison meet with the community (today) and find the root cause of the problems that led to the killing.

At a meeting held today, community members made impassioned pleas to the multi-agency provincial government team to liberate them from the clutches of a structure simple known as The Forum. Community members told the provincial team that the Forum had placed them under an illegal curfew. They also told the team of assaults, intimidation, and how a community hall had been hijacked. They also alleged that the Forum were responsible for the weekend attack. The Forum apparently has links with the chairperson of Abantu Basemjondolo, Sbu Zikode

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government Team comprised of, the Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Bongani Ntanjana, Head of Department of Community Safety & Liaison, Yasmin Bacus, eThekweni Councilors, Yacoob Baig (ward 25) and Nelisiwe Nyanisa, eThekweni Municipality Head of Community Participation Mina Lesoma, Senior Superintendent Msomi of Metro Police, Holson Mbhele, of the Community Safety & Liaison Department, he is the Community Liaison Officer for eThekweni, Ishmael Nxumalo, the director for Provincial Community Policing at the Department of Community Safety & Liaison.

At the meeting today, it was agreed as follows:

- The Provincial Commissioner's office will set up a Special Police Task Team to hunt down the killers responsible for the weekend mayhem,
- The Forum has no official standing, and shall disband,

- The Department of Community Safety & Liaison through its head of Community Policing is to meet with all community structures including the Forum so as to set up a properly recognized Community Policing structure and encourage dialogue,
- That, an illegal curfew is lifted with immediate effect,
- That, Kennedy Road Informal Settlement is placed under 24 hour policing by teams from the Public Order Policing Unit, and the Durban Metro Police,
- eThekweni Municipality is to investigate ways of improving lighting in the area that may include installing flood lights,
- eThekweni Municipality shall without delay clear bushes and plantation that may impinge the work of police,
- All crimes shall be reported to the new Special Task Team,
- A special focus will be placed on proliferation of illegal taverns. All legal taverns shall operate within the law including operating hours.

**MEC Willies Mchunu said:**

“We condemn the killing of our people. It is absurd for any one to impose an illegal curfew on residents. We want to assure all Kennedy Road residents, that, we stand ready to defend their freedoms including their right to freedom of association and the freedom of movement. Criminals, who are holding the Kennedy Road resident’s hostage, must be arrested without delay. We want all Kennedy Road residents to be as free as any other citizen in a democratic society. All challenges in the community shall be addressed through dialogue within properly constituted community structures.

We have directed that the Department of Community Safety & Liaison through its Communities-in-Dialogue Programme shall assist the Kennedy Road residents to talk and solve all problems peacefully, in the meantime, police will be deployed in greater numbers, and killers hunted down”.

**Said Deputy Commissioner, Bongani Ntanjana:**

“We want the community to know that as of today, they are free to walk, cook, and watch television as they so desire. No curfew. No Forum has any authority to dictate how this community ought to live. Police are here to ensure your freedom of movement and association. Killers will be hunted down and jailed,”

**Issued on behalf of the MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison – Hon. Willies Mchunu, and Office of the SAPS Provincial Commissioner, Commissioner Hamilton Ngidi.**

For more information, call MEC’s spokesperson Bhekisisa Mncube, 084 928 4412, and Senior Superintendent Jay Naicker 082 556 7865