



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON

KWAZULU-NATAL

"Defending the weak"

MEDIA ALERT

MEC BHEKI CELE HEADS TO PAUL PIETERSBURG TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF STOCK THEFT AND VIGILANTE GROUPS WHICH ARE TERRORISING THE COMMUNITY

In a drive to bring the law closer to the people for better understanding and protection, the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr Bheki Cele will on **12 March 2009** be hosting a crime imbizo at **Mangosutho Sports Ground, Edumbe in Paul Pietersburg starting from 09h30**. Ten thousand members of the community are expected to attend this event to hear what their leaders have to say about the problem of stock theft and the persisting existence of vigilante groups such as Isikebhe which are terrorising this community. These groups have been known to take the law into their own hands and attacking people suspected of being involved in the theft of stock, while leaving communities fearing for their safety.

The key message that the MEC will be emphasizing to the people of Paul Pietersburg is that 'vigilantism will not be tolerated' and that government will not sit by and watch its people being terrorized in this manner. As the problem of stock theft touches other departments as well, the Department of Agriculture will be present to re-iterate the message of the day as well as to present some of its projects aimed at assisting communities. The two departments are also part of a provincial committee which was appointed by Premier Ndebele to address the problem of stock theft. Other stakeholders that will be present include representatives from the Office of the Premier, government departments, Amakhosi, Izinduna, members of the SAPS and other community leaders.

Members for the media are invited to attend and cover the event.

Issued by: Ms Nonkululeko Mbatha
Spokesperson to the MEC for Transport,
Community Safety and Liaison
Tel: 083 645 6252