



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 26 FEBRUARY 2009
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC CELE SHOCKED AND ANGERED AT THE DISPEAKABLE ACT OF THE MLAZI CRIMINALS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele has strongly condemned the dispeakable brutal killing of the member of iThemba gospel group, who was shot and killed in the early hours of this morning at his home at uMlazi "J" section. This follows the series of criminal acts involving kidnapping, attempted murder and rape by an unknown group of thugs.

According to preliminary reports, the series of criminal acts started in the early hours of today where it is alleged that four suspects armed, kidnapped six girls from the informal settlement at uMlazi "J" section where they allegedly raped two out of the six. They then took them to Welbarduch near Chartsworth into a house where they shot one colored female in the head, one male in the neck and the other one in the thigh. It is reported that they were rushed to a nearby hospital in a critical condition. They then proceeded to "N" section at uMlazi with the six girls to Mkhanyawo household. They allegedly forced the girls to pretend to be police, where a girl (19) from the house opened the door, forcing her to knock at her uncles out building, pretending to be police again. When the uncle refused to open the four suspects allegedly forced entry and shot the uncle (Philani "Amen" Mkhanyawo-32) three times and he died at the scene. It alleged that they then raped the 19 year old girl on her uncle's bed with his body on the floor. The suspects stole his clothes, six cell phones and food.

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The police are investigating the matter and have opened five counts of charges which are kidnapping, rape, attempted murder and robbery.

“I am deeply appalled and sadden by the act of these hooligans. This kind of behavior is totally brutal and unacceptable. The SAPS will work sleepless nights to make sure that the perpetrators are caught and dealt with accordingly. My deepest condolences go to family and friends of Mkhanyawo. His death was a loss not only to them but to the broader community and the department as well. May his soul rest in peace”, said Cele

ENDS.

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