



MEDIA UPDATE

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 17 October 2011
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU SHOCKED AT SUSPECTS DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNITY

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu has learnt with great shock the death of two suspects at the hands of the community.

It is alleged that on Friday 14 October in KwaMakhutha police responded to a complaint of two men that were kidnapped and possibly killed as a result of alleged housebreaking in the area.

When police arrived at Wade Road they were told that the two men were accused of breaking into a house in the area and stealing from the residence. It is alleged that the two missing men together with a third man were confronted by the home owner and his friends on Wednesday 12 October. Whilst the one man managed to escape his two friends were caught and allegedly tortured to death.

Mchunu described the incident as unfortunate especially because the department has started a process of engaging community based crime fighting organisation with a view to minimize incidents of suspects dying at the hands of the community.

“I would like to condemn the killing of these two suspects. This is unfortunate and we do not encourage communities taking law into their own hands. We call on communities to work closely with the police to report criminals. We met with community based crime fighting structures and resolve to provide training to them but in the main agreed to respect the rule of law in the process of fighting

crime and criminals. Vigilantism has no place in our democratic country; therefore we are all guided by the rule of law. I would like to send my condolences to both families of the deceased”, said Mchunu.

Police were led to a cliff in the Mid-Illovo area where it was believed that the men's bodies were dumped. Police called in the Search and Rescue Unit as well as a chopper from the police's Airwing. After conducting an aerial search in the area, bodies were spotted at the base of a 60 metre cliff. The bodies were airlifted from the bottom of the cliff.

Ends

MEDIA CONTACT: Kwanele Ncalane on 072 803 1462 or 0796995155