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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**28 November 2011**

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### **MEC MCHUNU CONCERNED ABOUT THREAT OF VIGILANTISM**

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu has voiced out his concern about the threat of vigilantism.

A young man aged approximately 20 was assaulted by members of the community of Unit 2 Mpumalanga Township on Friday (25 November 2011). He was set alight and when the police arrived he was dead and had been burnt beyond recognition. It is alleged that the deceased is a member of the BIG NUZ gang that has been committing a series of crimes in the Township.

The MEC has warned that harsh action will be taken against those found responsible for vigilante behavior.

**“I am concerned about the menace of vigilantism that is threatening communities. The Department of Community Safety and Liaison has started a programme called Operation Hlasela. With this programme we go around communities strengthening the relations between the communities and the police in an effort to fight crime. We do not want a situation where community members become a law unto themselves. We have laws that govern our country and those laws should be obeyed at all times, if you take the law into your own hands you are no different than any other criminal. I also appeal to community members to come forward with any information that could assist the police to rid the community of crime and any criminal elements.” said Mchunu.**

No arrest has been made yet and the police are investigating the case.

Ends

For more information, please contact the Media Liaison Officer, Mr. Kwanele Ncalane on 079 699 5755.